

Hafa Adai!

3 more positives in CNMI; Guam posts 145th COVID death. PAGE 3
Democrats field Corina Magofna for Precinct 3 special polls. PAGE 5

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FDA give full approval to Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

By LAURAN NEERGAARD and MATTHEW PERRONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. gave full approval to Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine Monday, potentially boosting public confidence in the shots and instantly opening the way for more universities, companies and local govern-

RELATED NEWS

- What does FDA's approval of Pfizer's COVID vaccine mean? **PAGE 12**
- NYC mandates vaccinations for public school teachers and staff. **PAGE 12**

ments to make vaccinations mandatory.

The Pentagon promptly announced it will press ahead with plans to force members of the military to get vaccinated amid the battle against

See FDA on Page 4

A chorus of praise for FDA's approval

By JOSHUA SANTOS and FERDIE DE LA TORRE
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that the CNMI is grateful to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine, saying this serves as proper justification for the legitimacy of the vaccine.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña echoed this, saying that FDA's approval of the vaccine should "reassure anyone with concerns on the efficacy and safety of these vaccines."

Torres said they are looking
See CHORUS on Page 4



LAZY DAY ON MANAGAHA

This weekend visitor to Managaha Island takes advantage of the soft breeze and cool shade to relax on a hammock that's been tied between two trees during a brief sojourn to this islet off the Saipan lagoon last Saturday.

JUN DAYAO

'Vendors who charge fees on stimulus cards will be investigated'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If anyone feels that they are being

charged an additional fee when using their stimulus card, they may notify the CNMI Department of Finance about it so the Office of the Attorney

General can investigate it, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalg last Friday.

See VENDORS on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:19pm, Aug. 24, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **76.8%**
Fully Vaccinated: **76.8%**

Days since last community transmission **154**

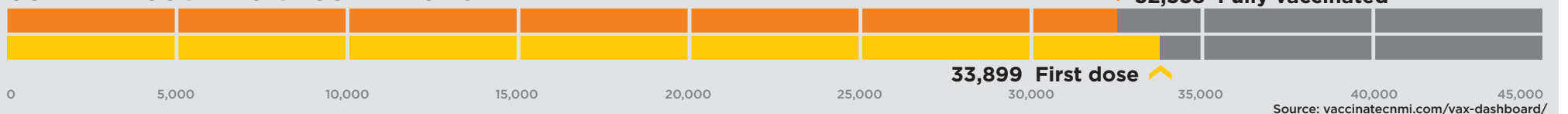
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,235
Fully Vaccinated:	27,630
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,664
Fully Vaccinated:	4,192
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	716

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	9298	314	9,612
Recovered	8,578	83	8,661
Active	492	314	806
Deaths	144	1	145

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	226	3	229
Traced via Travel Screening	189	3	192
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



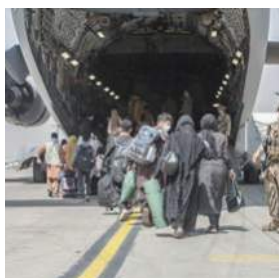
INSIDE



NATION

All New York City public school teachers and other staffers will have to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

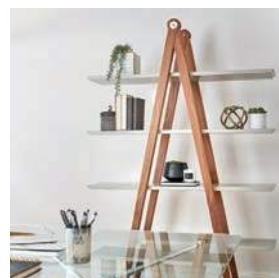
PAGE 12



ASIA

A firefight outside Kabul's international airport killed an Afghan soldier early Monday.

PAGE 13



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Shelf dressing means staging techniques used to create visually appealing displays.

PAGE 14



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Marpi hit-and-run case stays in juvenile court

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General said the case of the 17-year-old male accused of hitting and abandoning the victim in the fatal Marpi hit-and-run last month will stay in juvenile court for a number of reasons.

According to Chester Hinds, OAG criminal division acting chief prosecutor, the OAG has received numerous inquiries why the alleged driver that killed 20-year-old Sophia Demapan is being tried as a minor. The OAG explains that the case falls in the juvenile jurisdiction by law because of a number of factors involved in the case, chief of which is the fact that the individual allegedly involved in the case was below 18 at the time of the incident, therefore pursuant to CNMI law, the juvenile court takes jurisdiction over the case.

"In this case, juvenile jurisdiction is required by law. 6 CMC § 5121 states that '[t]he Superior Court shall have exclusive, original jurisdiction over any juvenile and over

any adult who was a juvenile at the time of any act.' Generally, a 17-year-old is considered to be juvenile, under the statute," he said.

Another factor considered was that the crime was technically a traffic case. Despite being charged with homicide, the specific charge against the defendant was "homicide by vehicle," which is considered a felony level traffic case.

"6 CMC § 5121(d) states that juvenile jurisdiction shall not apply to juvenile violators of non-felony-level traffic statutes. Basically, juvenile court has exclusive and original jurisdiction over all felony level traffic cases, such as homicide by vehicle, 9 CMC § 7110(a). 9 CMC § 7110(a), states that '[w]hoever shall unlawfully and unintentionally cause the death of another person while engaged in the violation of any law applying to the operation or use of a vehicle or to the regulation of traffic shall be guilty of homicide when the violation is the proximate cause of the death.'" Hinds said.

Lastly, although the law does allow for a minor to be charged as an adult when the

crime involves the death of another individual, this can only be done if there is sufficient evidence to prove that the minor killed the individual intentionally.

"The law does provide that a juvenile could be charged as an adult under 6 CMC § 5131, which states that any juvenile, age 16 years or age 17

years, who is alleged to have committed murder shall be proceeded against as an adult. To charge a juvenile with murder, there would have to be evidence that the juvenile acted intentionally to cause the death of another," he said.

Currently, details about the proceedings still cannot be shared as the case is in juve-

nile court and all proceedings are confidential and closed to the public.

However, the OAG is currently addressing the victim's immediate family being able to be present at all scheduled hearings.

Meanwhile, regarding the autopsy, Hinds confirmed that Demapan suffered mas-

sive trauma as a result of the accident.

"The autopsy conducted by Dr. Phillip Dauterman was finalized on Aug. 18. Cause of death found was massive trauma. The manner of death was a motor vehicle accident. All injuries found were related to the cause and manner of death," he said.

Travel Bubble participant not exempted from quarantine

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority assures the community that, like all incoming passengers, passengers participating in the CNMI-South Korea Travel Bubble are not exempted from the mandatory quarantine protocol.

In a short statement from MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, she shot down allegations that Travel Bubble passengers are exempted from the recently reinstated mandatory quarantine while returning residents are required to quarantine for five days.

"All Travel Bubble passengers are required to quaran-

tine regardless of vaccination status," she said. This is why

Travel Bubble tourists are first quarantined at Pacific Islands Club Saipan for five days. After five days they are tested again. If they are still negative for COVID-19, that's when they can transfer to either of the two "corridor hotels": the Saipan World Resort or Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Iakopo also told *Saipan Tribune* that the Travel Bubble has had a slow start but seems to be picking up with the holidays fast approaching.

"We've had a slow start, as it normally takes travel agen-

cies at least 30 to 90 days to create and sell packages but since we started end of July we already have over 330 confirmed bookings through the end of September," she said.

The managing director said that MVA only expects the number of booked Travel Bubble flights to increase with the Chuseok holiday just around the corner.

"We anticipate an increase in bookings due to the Chuseok Holiday (similar to Thanksgiving) in Korea. This is one of the busiest travel holidays for Korea," she said.

Since the program launched

back in July, MVA reported over 90 incoming passengers from South Korea.

Just two weeks ago, MVA decided to extend the Travel Investment Resumption Plan, or TRIP, to December to sustain the resumption of tourism in the CNMI. The Travel Bubble falls under this program.

The program primarily provides subsidies to airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and related businesses to help sustain efforts to revive the CNMI's tourism industry. It was originally supposed to last just eight weeks, or only until about September but with the extension, travel agents in Korea will be given more time to properly promote the Marianas.



Iakopo

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3 more positives in CNMI; Guam posts 145th COVID-related death

Guam reported its 145th COVID-19-related fatality yesterday. According to Guam's Joint Information Center, the fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital at about 6:40pm Sunday, Aug. 22. The patient was an 88-year-old male who had underlying health conditions and was unvaccinated. He was confirmed positive for COVID-19 on Aug. 14.

"We are facing a harsh

reality each day, one where our loved ones are at risk. COVID-19 continues to test our community, and we must continue doing everything we can to ensure the health and safety of our people so we can avoid such tragic loss. Our hearts and prayers go out to him and his loved ones," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

Also, JIC reported that 24 individuals in Guam are cur-

rently hospitalized due to COVID-19, with 20 out of 24 being unvaccinated. Additionally, 188 new cases of COVID-19 were identified in Guam over the period of Aug 20 to 22.

In the CNMI, three more incoming travelers were con-

See DEATH on Next Page

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Court encourages Legislature to meet with e-gaming operators

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has encouraged legislative members to meet with those impacted by the law that was recently passed that essentially doubles taxes for e-gaming companies.

According to Gus Noble, Saipan Vegas Resort gaming consultant, during the temporary injunction hearing last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo encour-

aged members of the Legislature and the plaintiffs, Mariana Entertainment LLC and MP Holdings LLC, to discuss the effects of the bill and see if there is room for a compromise before the next court hearing on Sept. 16.

“[Last week], Mariana Entertainment LLC and MP Holdings LLC, the owners of Club 88 and Saipan Vegas, argued before Govendo that a temporary restraining order be granted against Local Law 22-6 im-

posing a double tax on e-gaming establishments. The judge at the hearing granted the plaintiffs time to respond to a late filed and continued the hearing until the 16th of September. The judge also strongly encouraged the Legislature and the companies impacted by the bill to discuss it and see if there was room for a compromise before returning to court on the 16,” he said.

Noble said Marianas Entertainment and MP Holdings are ready

and available to talk with lawmaker if they would give them the chance.

“We were encouraged by the judges’ comments and recommendations at the hearing, and in the spirit of cooperation, we have proposed an amendment to the double tax law to the local delegation. We remain available at any time to meet with them to discuss and find a compromise solution, to keep a viable e-gaming industry and save over 70 local people their jobs, and we will be reaching

out to them,” he said.

As for Govendo’s recommendation to talk out the bill, Noble said the plaintiffs appreciate the judge’s suggestion.

“We appreciate the judge’s observations about the speed in which the bill was passed with little notice, and without comment, and the judge’s recommendation that both parties open a dialogue and for the Legislature to get feedback on the impact of the bill,” he said.

FDA

From Page 1

the extra-contagious delta variant. The University of Minnesota likewise said it will require its students get the shot, as did Louisiana’s major public universities, including LSU, though state law there allows broad exemptions.

More than 200 million Pfizer doses have been administered in the U.S. under emergency provisions—and hundreds of millions more worldwide—since December. In going a step further and granting full approval, the Food and Drug Administration cited months of real-world evidence that serious side effects are extremely rare.

President Joe Biden said that for those who hesitated to get the vaccine until it received what he dubbed the “gold standard” of FDA approval, “the moment you’ve been waiting for is here.”

“Please get vaccinated today,” he said.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla called the FDA’s action “an important milestone that I think will unlock some of the more skeptical minds.”

Pfizer said the U.S. is the first country to grant full approval of its vaccine, in a process that required a 360,000-page application and rigorous inspections. Never before has the FDA has so much evidence to judge a shot’s safety.

The formula, jointly developed with Germany’s BioNTech, will be marketed under the brand name Comirnaty.

Moderna has also applied to the

FDA for full approval of its vaccine. Johnson & Johnson, maker of the third option in the U.S., said it hopes to do so later this year.

Just over half of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated. Vaccinations in this country bottomed out in July at an average of about a half-million shots per day, down from a peak of 3.4 million a day in mid-April. As the delta variant fills hospital beds, shots are on the rise again, with a million a day given Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Full approval of Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine means it meets the same “very high standards required of all the approved vaccines we rely on every day,” said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, a former FDA vaccine chief. That should help “anyone who still has concerns gain confidence” in the shots.

Earlier this month, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said he would seek the president’s OK to make the vaccine mandatory by mid-September or once the FDA grants final approval, whichever comes first. On Monday, after the FDA acted, the Pentagon said guidance on vaccinations will be worked out and a timeline will be provided in the coming days.

The approval also opened the way for swift action by colleges to require vaccines and solidified the legal ground for hundreds of universities that have already issued mandates for students and staff.

The public university systems in Louisiana and Minnesota had been waiting for FDA action before making vaccinations mandatory. Louisiana has become a COVID-19 hot

spot, repeatedly breaking records for the number of people hospitalized with the virus. But certain other states forbid universities to require shots, including Texas and Florida.

“Mandating becomes much easier when you have full approval,” said Dr. Carlos del Rio of Emory University. “I think a lot of businesses have been waiting for it.”

On the same day the FDA decision came down, New York City announced that all public school teachers and other staffers will have to get vaccinated.

The delta variant has sent cases, deaths and hospitalizations soaring in recent weeks in the U.S., erasing months of progress. Deaths are running at about 1,000 a day on average for the first time since mid-March, and new cases are averaging 147,000 a day, a level last seen at the end of January.

Elizabeth Nichols, 18, of Akron, Ohio, said she felt “a rush of relief” after hearing the news of the FDA’s approval. She already was on her way to get her first vaccine shot Monday morning after months of hesitation.

“I had an internal battle of whether I should get the shot or not,” Nichols said in an email. “It can be scary subjecting yourself to something that is unapproved.” But she added: “The authorization proves how safe it is.”

The FDA, like regulators in Europe and much of the rest of the world, initially allowed emergency use of Pfizer’s vaccine based on a study that tracked 44,000 people 16 and older for at least two months—the time period when serious side effects typically arise.

tary said.

Atalig said there’s no additional fees or so-called tax on purchases just because one is using the stimulus card.

He said the stimulus card should work just the same as if one is using his or her Bank of Guam gift card.

The secretary said they haven’t really had any substantial claims to prove what some of these people are posting on social media.

To ensure that the money is circulated within the CNMI economy and is not used elsewhere, these pre-paid debit stimulus cards are geo-restricted so they can’t be used outside the Commonwealth.

Eligible individuals received \$500 per card and \$500 for each dependent.

Finance earlier stated that they expect to release \$25 million for 28,000 local stimulus checks using the American Rescue Plan Act money.

That’s shorter than the six months of safety data normally required for full approval. So Pfizer kept that study going, and the FDA also examined real-world safety evidence.

Pfizer’s shot will continue to be dispensed to 12- to 15-year-olds under an emergency use authorization, until the company files its application for full approval.

Normally, doctors can prescribe FDA-approved products for other reasons than their original use. But FDA’s acting Commissioner Dr. Janet Woodcock strongly warned that the Pfizer vaccine should not be used “off-label” for children under 12—a warning echoed by the American

Academy of Pediatrics.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have vaccine studies underway in youngsters, and they are using lower doses than those available for people 12 and older.

Pfizer’s Bourla said he expects study results from 5- to 11-year-olds by the end of September, but data for those younger than 5 will take a couple of months.

Also, Woodcock said health providers are offering COVID-19 vaccines under agreements with the government that should preclude using Monday’s approval as a pretext for offering booster shots to the general population.

CHORUS

From Page 1

forward to seeing the other vaccines get the same authorization, as well as more of the people in the CNMI getting protected. The other vaccines being administered in the United States that are still under the FDA’s “Emergency Use Authorization” are Moderna and the Janssen vaccine of Johnson & Johnson.

“We are almost there, CNMI. Together, we can be stronger with the protection the vaccine provides, and by looking out for another,” he said.

Torres said front-liners, doctors, and nurses from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force have worked very hard over the course of the last year and a half to keep the community safe. He said vaccination of the people remains the ultimate goal in defeating this virus.

Muñia also continues to emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated. “We are fortunate that here in the CNMI, the rate of vaccinations for eligible persons is substantial. However, when the rest of the globe is experiencing low vaccination rates and high transmission of COVID-19, more dangerous variants can still emerge. ... The FDA’s full approval of the Pfizer vaccine is definitely an important milestone that should reassure anyone with concerns on the efficacy and safety of these vaccines. The full approval was given after stringent data analysis and I hope those unvaccinated consider the full approval and get vaccinated if eli-

gible to continue to keep the CNMI safe,” said Muñia.

The Office of the Governor of Guam also issued yesterday statements from both Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio. Leon Guerrero said the FDA approval should give those who have delayed receiving their shots added confidence, and Tenorio looks forward to more vaccines becoming fully approved by the FDA.

“Since December, our island’s front-liners have administered over 129,000 Pfizer shots in arms, and the move from Emergency Use Authorization to full approval gives those who have delayed their shots the added confidence to get the vaccine. We welcome the full approval from the FDA, which affirms our latest executive order requiring proof of at least one shot to enter establishments and participate in events where mask-wearing is compromised. More than safeguarding the progress we’ve made to date, more vaccinations means greater protection for our fragile healthcare system and our limited resources, both at the Guam Memorial Hospital and the Guam Regional Medical City,” said Leon Guerrero.

“For those of us who are eligible for the vaccine, we must do everything we can to protect those unable to receive their shots. We protect our children and our vulnerable family members by surrounding them with vaccinated individuals. With Pfizer paving the way, we look forward to the other COVID-19 vaccines receiving full authorization and more of our community receiving the protection the vaccine provides,” said Tenorio.

Healthcare Corp. yesterday. The individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed through arrival testing on Aug. 23. The cases bring the CNMI’s total to 229 cases. **(Joshua Santos)**

VENDORS

From Page 1

In response to a question during a radio press briefing if the stimulus card fees issue has been resolved, Atalig said there’s been a lot of posts on social media about some of these charges on stimulus cards.

“We ask that every taxpayer, if you have a claim against these fees, or you’re assuming their fees, please email us at stimulus@dof.gov.mp,” he said.

He said claimants must also upload their receipts and that they need their card number so the matter can be investigated.

Atalig said they will also work with the OAG to investigate the vendors that are charging a fee and get to the bottom of it. “We will ensure that we return those charges back to the taxpayer because they should not be

charged for normal purchases here in the Commonwealth,” he pointed out.

Atalig said if there is a fee, they will ensure that the taxpayers’ account will be credited for those fees.

The secretary said there are no fees charged to the taxpayer on the stimulus card. There are some fees, however, that are associated with some of the vendors that they go to. “For example, if you rent a car using a debit card, the company will put a \$200 or so hold—it depends on each vendor—for security purposes,” Atalig said.

Hotels would do the same as they’ll put a hold on the card until the guest checks out.

“If you go to a restaurant, and you spend \$40, they’ll put like a 20% above your bill. So they’ll charge you \$44 just to ensure that if you sign off on that bill, that any tip that you had on it is already approved,” the secre-

Bill that requires special election to fill BOE vacancy is enacted

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has signed into law a Senate bill that will require a special election to fill a Board of Education vacancy.

Torres informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House

of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) Friday that he signed Senate Bill 22-26, SD1, into Public Law 22-04.

The new law clarifies when an elected member of the BOE must resign from his or her Staffler



Torres

Public School System employment.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) introduced the bill last Feb. 19. The Senate passed it on March 12. The House Committee on Education chaired by Rep. Leila

mended its passage. Last July 6, the House unanimously passed the bill.

Under the bill, any vacancy in the BOE caused by the death, resignation, or removal of an appointed member shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment to serve the unexpired term of that vacancy.

Upon the creation of a board vacancy due to death, resignation, or removal of an elected member, the governor shall appoint the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the same election or district where the former board member was elected, regardless of the time remaining in the term of office.

If no candidate is interested in filling the vacancy or no

person is certified as a candidate during a general election, a vacancy on the BOE shall be filled by a special election.

The Commonwealth Election Commission shall conduct a special election to fill such a vacancy within 30 days after a vacancy on the board is declared or the general election results are certified if not person is certified as a candidate during a general election.

Democrats field Corina Magofna for Precinct 3 special polls



The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands central executive committee announced yesterday its endorsement of Corina L. Magofna as the party's candidate to the House of Representatives in the upcoming special election for Precinct 3.

The governor has yet to publicly announce the special election but signed the proclamation on Aug. 19, 2021. Early voting will be held from Oct. 9 to 15 with the special election to be held on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021. The Commonwealth Election Commission will announce designated polling places soon.

The Democratic Party of the NMI has chosen to field Magofna for this special election, which is being called due to the untimely passing of the

late representative Ivan Blanco's unfinished term.

The party pointed out that Magofna, who was also the party's Precinct 3 candidate at the November 2020 election, was just 34 votes short of securing victory.

A Democratic Party of the NMI statement yesterday that announced Magofna's candidacy acknowledged that Precinct 3 is one of the most difficult precincts for a Democrat to secure victory due to its voter's demographic composition. "[So] for Corina to come this close to taking the last seat speaks volume of her constituents' trust and confidence in her credibility and electability," the statement said.

"Corina was ready to serve in 2020, and did not hesitate to reach out to the party to confirm her willingness to run

again in the upcoming special election," said Democratic Party chair Nola Kileleman Hix. "Aside from our party's endorsement, she has overwhelming support from several members of our communities, and all of the candidates who ran in 2020, including our elected Democrat leaders. I'm excited for her tenacity and optimism in restoring fiscal responsibility to our CNMI government. On behalf of the party I ask the voters of Precinct 3 to allow her to represent them with their votes of confidence, as I am more than confident she will make the CNMI proud."

Democratic Party of the NMI central executive committee member and Precinct 3



Magofna

voter Jesus M. Elameto said, "I support Corina Magofna for her willingness to help our people. We need to give her a chance to serve because we definitely need a person with a financial background to be accountable for our public funds."

Magofna has a bachelor's degree in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix, and an associate degree in Accounting from the University of Hawaii. For the past three and half years, she was the budget officer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"Corina is a strong, intelligent woman with financial analytics that I've seen her apply during last year's campaign trail. Her expertise and ideas are needed and I ask all of our supporters and Precinct 3 voters to reach out to their

family and friends for their votes on Oct. 16," said Luella Marciano, Democratic Party of the NMI secretary.

Sen. Edith DeLeon Guerrero, who is a Central Executive Committee member, said, "Corina has no other agenda than to work for and in the best interest of our people. Our people deserve public servants like Corina."

For more information, contact Magofna on Facebook or email her at corina.magofna@gmail.com

Magofna has been actively participating in leadership activities and will be facilitating tonight's virtual town hall event with the Democratic lawmakers of the House and Senate along with Speaker Edmund Villagomez. The town hall event will begin at 5:30pm on the Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Facebook Page and

online participants will be able to submit questions and comments live.

The virtual town hall is part of a series of public meetings aimed at improving the transparency and accessibility of the CNMI Legislature. Democrats are keeping their promise to regularly engage with constituents, report on activities in the Legislature, and listen to concerns. In May, the lawmakers led town halls in all seven precincts across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Aug. 25 event will be the first online town hall using social media.

Community members are invited to submit questions or issues of concern ahead of time. Visit [Bit.ly/Townhall_2021](https://bit.ly/Townhall_2021) to fill out the short online form. For more information, contact nmidems.sm@gmail.com or 484-3367 (484-DEMS). (PR)

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<p>» Used 2006 M2 106 Tractor, Mercedes Eng, 300 HP w/Brake, 10 Spd Manual, 380,000 Miles. \$ 57,799.00 + GRT.</p>	<p>» Used 2002 NPR 14 FT Box Truck, Auto, 175 HP, 409,000 Miles. \$ 19,300.00 + GRT.</p>	<p>» Used 2013, 14 & 16 Ft Reefer Body with Lift Gate.</p>	<p>» 2007 Freightliner 18 Ft Stake Flatbed Lift Gate.</p>	



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary**

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Tel: (670) 664-2587 Fax: (670) 664-2571



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program has expanded the definition of Front Liners/Essential Workers. The expanded definition now include:

1. Child protective service workers: those who work in the child care welfare system and other critical social services;
2. Workers in the hotel industry;
3. Field workers from utility, water, and waste water companies;
4. Legally operating transportation services;
5. Public works employees, including parts and recreation and private or other autonomous agencies who conduct field work and inspections;
6. Communications and information technology workers;
7. Hazardous materials workers
8. Financial services and lending institutions;
9. Food delivery services;
10. Employees working at the airport and seaport;
11. Restaurant workers and those who work in the food industry.

Front liners/essential workers who may not necessarily meet income guidelines for the family may still qualify. For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please call **CCDF Eligibility Workers, Genevieve Guerrero, at 664-2576** or email at **dcca.jguerrero@gmail.com** or **Joella Rosario, at 664-2575** or email at **ccd.jrosario@gmail.com**. You may also want to visit the **cnmicclp.gov.mp** to download the CCDF Waitlist Application Packet.

/S/
Maribel D. Loste
CCDF Director

/S/
Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Tel. No. (670) 234-6866/7447

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Draft Implementation Framework Wednesday, August 25, 2021

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is seeking public input on a draft framework to implement the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) created by the American Rescue Plan Act. Public feedback on the draft implementation framework will inform the final HAF implementation plan that must be submitted to the United States Department of Treasury to access HAF funding. NMHC anticipates to submit the plan to Treasury by September 30, 2021.

The HAF draft implementation framework is now available for review at www.nmhc.gov.net.

The NMHC will hold a virtual hearing on the HAF draft implementation framework on August 31, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. See below for additional information about the public hearing. To ensure all interested persons are able to offer comments in the time allotted for the public hearing, each individual must limit comments to no more than two minutes. NMHC is also accepting written comments on the HAF draft implementation framework. Written comments must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on September 3, 2021. Written comments can be submitted directly to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation located in Garapan, Saipan, and also to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices.

Notice of Public Hearing on HAF Draft Implementation Framework:

Date: August 31, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Access Information: See Zoom Conferencing details on www.nmhc.gov.net; Facebook: Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Agenda:

- Brief presentation of the HAF draft implementation framework
- Public comments



PUBLIC NOTICE

for Hospital Dump Site

Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

WHO: For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

WHAT: A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

WHERE: 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

WHY: To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofoto, Saipan.

HOW: Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

Project Point of Contact:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Fax 808-835-4129
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogomoro via email address yvonne.ogomoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Administrator

Governor: Now is not a good time to travel to Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's governor asked Monday that visitors and residents reduce travel to the islands to essential business only while the state struggles to control COVID-19 as the highly contagious delta variant spreads in the community.

Gov. David Ige wants to curtail travel to Hawaii through the end of October.

"It is a risky time to be traveling right now," he said.

He said restaurant capacity has been restricted and there's limited access to rental cars.

Ige stopped short of a mandate, saying it's a different time now than last year when strict travel rules that required quarantining essentially shut down Hawaii's tourism industry.

"Last year in March, when I first asked for visitors to postpone travel to the islands, we saw a 60% reduction in the traffic to Hawaii," Ige said. "And then certainly, ordering the mandatory quarantine of all incoming visitors reduced travel to the islands by 99.5%, essentially 100% of travelers."



Ige

CPA looking into trained dogs to sniff out COVID-19

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is examining the possible use dogs that are trained specifically to sniff out COVID-19 in passengers, as an added layer of keeping the community safe from COVID-19 infections.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CPA and the CNMI administration continues to look for ways to fight the spread of the virus within the community amid the realization that the CNMI, along with the rest of the world, is still a long way

away from getting rid of COVID-19. With that in mind, the idea of posting COVID-19 sniffing dogs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport was discussed.

"Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recognizes that COVID-19 is not going to go away and that we need to continue to find a way to make sure that our community is safe, especially with the new variants like delta and lambda," she said.

Essentially, the use of K-9s is just another layer of security against COVID-19 entering the CNMI's borders.

"As part of the governor's request to continue to look

for ways to stay vigilant in keeping our community safe from COVID-19, CPA is exploring the feasibility of acquiring COVID-sniffing dogs as an added layer of detection for our borders," she said.

However, as exciting as it may be, the idea is still in its preliminary stages and needs continuous research before CPA can take the necessary steps to carry it out. "This is all very preliminary. Due diligence and more research need to be done to see what the science says about it. We also



King-Hinds

need to see what other jurisdictions are doing and see if this is a worthy investment for the CNMI," she said.

The idea was brought up during the CPA board's recent meeting, according to the CPA chair.

Some CPA staff members have already been tasked to research and look into the experiences of other jurisdictions using COVID-19-sniffing dogs as part of border security measures. CPA wants to know how it can acquire the dogs and how to train their handlers.



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Wednesday September 1, 2021 1:50 PM
Commonwealth Zoning Office, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Bldg.
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnimzoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 08/04/2021 Zoning Board Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments

B. New Business

1. Zoning Personnel Contract Renewal

C. Old Business

1. Conditional Use Application #2020-6462 – Top Hat Saipan, LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a unit on the 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring 76'3" (L) x 45'10" (W) x 16' (H) for its "Adult Business" Use. This use is permitted in the district as a conditional use and the site is located on Lot No. 002 D 07 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

D. Executive Session

E. Miscellaneous

1. Administrator's Updates
2. Permit & Enforcement Report

F. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-155

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER/ SCANNER MACHINE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (CCERA) PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



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GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE







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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Haiti needs our help now

Once again Haiti finds itself on the tragic side of the world's disaster divide and its need for help is urgent.

A 7.2-magnitude earthquake, more powerful than the whopper that killed more than 200,000 in the capital, Port-au-Prince, in 2010, has rocked the country's more remote southern peninsula, killing more than 2,100, leveling thousands of homes and leaving hundreds more missing and presumed trapped under rubble.

And, barely three days later, while Haitians still were searching for loved ones and trying to dig their neighbors out of the rubble with bare hands, Tropical Storm Grace lashed into the island, causing mudslides and floods that damaged temporary shelters for people displaced by the quake.

And all of these horrors rained down—during the COVID-19 pandemic—on the heels of the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse last month, which left the government without a president, a functioning parliament or head of its Supreme Court.

Few in the quake zone were surprised when promised government rescue help largely failed to show up.

International aid groups, including the United Nations, and the United States mobilized to send help. But, struggling to get through severe flooding, blocked roads and armed gangs, aid convoys with relief supplies barely could get through.

The new prime minister, Ariel Henry, toured the devastation a day after the quake offering little more than kind words. His government lacks experience, money and, in the eyes of most Haitians, legitimacy. In further humiliation to Haiti's national pride, he had to travel on an airplane borrowed from the neighboring Dominican Republic.

"It is as if we are cursed," the Rev. Lucson Simeon lamented to a Washington Post reporter at his devastated church in L'Asile, a small farming community 11 miles from the epicenter. "We just keep getting beaten down. I ask myself, how can this be?"

He's hardly alone in that sentiment. The Rev. Pat Robertson, a Republican presidential candidate in 1988, sparked a backlash of criticism on his CBN broadcast after the 2010 quake by citing a spiritual pact that Haiti's founders supposedly made with the devil in 1791 to help win their liberation from France.

With its dubious, unconfirmed origins and co-option by Robertson as a racist trope, that legendary story of a satanic deal sounds morbid amid Haiti's latest chain of disasters. In reality, Haiti's tragedies have less to do with supernatural deal-making than a combination of natural and human-caused calamities.

In nature, Haiti sits on two major fault zones in the middle of the Caribbean hurricane belt. Climate change has only accelerated the ferocity of the weather. Erosion from storms and clear-cutting deforestation policies dating back to the French colonizers hampered agriculture.

Infrastructure and construction policies are weaker than in wealthier nations. Slavery under the Spanish, then the French, marked centuries of exploitation, including by Americans.

Southern politicians and the planter class feared Haitian slave revolts might spread to these shores. Instead, the United States occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 and helped prop up the murderous Duvalier dictatorship to prevent the island's becoming the next Cuba.

See HAITI on next page



The fall of Kabul doesn't need to spell the end of US global power

Amid the chaos in Kabul, politicians and pundits have declared the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan a defeat from which U.S. influence may never recover.

"Biden's credibility is now shot," wrote Gideon Rachman, chief oracle of Britain's Financial Times.

"A grave blow to America's standing," warned The Economist. But take a deep breath and remember some history.

When South Vietnam collapsed after a war that involved four times as many U.S. troops, many drew the same conclusion: The age of U.S. global power was over.

Less than 15 years later, the Berlin Wall came down, the Cold War began to end, and the United States soon stood as the world's only superpower.

The lesson: A debacle like the defeat in Kabul—or the one in Saigon two generations earlier—doesn't always prevent a powerful country from marshaling its resources and succeeding.

I'm not dismissing the tragedy that has befallen the Afghans or the damage that U.S. credibility has suffered. When President Joe Biden told a news conference that he had "seen no questioning of our credibility from allies," he sounded as if he was in denial—or, perhaps worse, out of touch.

No questioning? How about the question from Tobias Ellwood, chairman of the British Parliament's defense committee: "Whatever happened to 'America is back'?"

Or the complaint from Armin Laschet, the German conservative who could be his country's leader after elections next month: "The greatest debacle NATO has experienced since its founding."

Whether he likes it or not, Biden has repair work to do.

The first step, already underway, is making sure the endgame in Kabul doesn't get any worse.

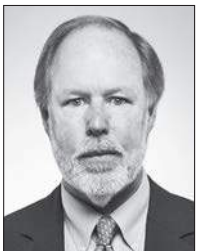
That means keeping U.S. troops on the ground until every American is out, as Biden has promised. It also requires an energetic effort to evacuate Afghans who worked with the U.S. government and other institutions, even if that requires risking the lives of some American troops. Those Afghans trusted us; if we abandon them, it will be a long time before we can credibly ask the same of anyone else.

And, of course, the administration needs to prevent al-Qaida and other terrorist groups from replanting themselves in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. If the United States fails at that—the original reason we invaded the country almost 20 years ago—Biden's decision to withdraw will justly be judged a fiasco.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



There's repair work to do beyond Afghanistan, too.

"We've got to show that it would be wrong to see American foreign policy through the lens of Afghanistan," Richard N. Haass, president of the nonpartisan Council on Foreign Relations and a former top State Department official, told me.

The United States has more important interests that need attention and allies that need reassurance, he said.

"The most important thing is to deter our major foes," he said, referring to China, Russia and Iran.

"This is a moment to strengthen forces in Europe, mount more freedom of navigation operations [by the U.S. Navy] in the South China Sea," he said. "This is a good time to say we're serious about our commitment to Taiwan," which China periodically threatens.

Biden took a step in that direction in his recent interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, listing Taiwan along with South Korea and Japan as places where the U.S. "would respond" to an attack.

If anything, Haass and other foreign policy veterans say, the questions about American credibility are likely to make Biden react more strongly to the next few challenges overseas.

"The most intriguing question is what effect this episode has on Biden's thinking," suggested Aaron David Miller of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Will he think: 'I've got to be tougher with the Iranians now? Do I have to signal to a country like Taiwan that I'm prepared to protect American interests there?'"

But the notion that American influence has been fatally damaged is overblown, he argued.

"There have been many other instances in which U.S. credibility has been diminished, but our phone continues to ring," Miller said.

See THE FALL on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How to stop worrying that CRT will corrupt your kids

In 1925, John W. Butler, a legislator in Tennessee, told reporters that years earlier he'd "read in the papers that boys and girls were coming home from school and telling their fathers and mothers that the Bible was all nonsense."

"I didn't think that was right," Butler told the New York Times in July of that year.

At first Butler couldn't figure out exactly what students had seen in school that allegedly led them to reject Christianity. But with help from a preacher, he settled on a culprit: A biology class about heritable characteristics. Evolution.

Butler then authored the Butler Act, which banned the teaching of Darwin's theory and became the basis for the famous Scopes monkey trial.

A century later, another theory is being banned in schools: critical race theory, or CRT. Several state legislatures have passed bills to keep it out of classrooms, alleging that it challenges the popular belief that racism in America mostly ended with the civil rights movement. Some add anecdotal evidence that critical race theory guilt trips white students and leaves Black students with apathy and despair.

It corrupts the youth, in other words. Just like evolution in 1925. Or Socratic inquiry in 399 BCE.

Critical race theory is an odd object of hostility for lawmakers. Just as evolution is an effort to understand how organisms become more complex with time, CRT tries to understand why civil rights legislation in the United States didn't end segregation.

Perhaps, the theory proposes, the law itself—or the real-estate business, or policing, or even tropes in the language—is inflected by racism in ways that are hard to detect.

To take one simple and rather shopworn example of CRT in action: What if the adjective "articulate," a go-to word of praise for individual Black people in public life, conceals an assumption that Black expression is, ordinarily, incoherent?

Sometimes "articulate" is just "articulate." But it's interesting to ask deeper questions. How might questioning our assumptions about that word illuminate ordinary experience? How might this analysis contribute to making the U.S. more just?

Opponents of critical race theory dismiss inquiry like this, but what's weird is how much it worries them. CRT, like evolution in 1925, strikes them as more than just too complicated. It somehow threatens to deprive their kids of faith—not faith in the Christian God this time, but in the decency of the United States and in white Americans of good character.

There are some impressive leaps of logic here. A kid in this hypothesis goes from considering the reflexive use of "articulate" in certain circumstances to despair and demoralization.

I was exposed to CRT in graduate school (here's where I admit I did a PhD in English) and I find it hard to imagine how this tragedy goes down. CRT sharpened my analytical eye for the way seemingly neutral elements of experience can express something less than neutral, and how a position of "no ideology" can itself reflect an ideology. I'm not sure CRT made me a better or worse person; in fact, I doubt it touched my moral fiber.

Opponents of CRT often admit, as did Butler with evolution, that they know little about it. They don't even seem to reject it as a theory. Instead, they imagine that, as one vocal opponent put it, this theory "judges my daughter by the color of her skin" and "encourages and instructs her to prejudice others by theirs."

I don't buy this. But as a parent I get that subjecting one's child to judgment of any kind feels risky. And what if some of that judgment is directed at you? What parent has not known the fear of being rejected by a child in favor of newly discovered values, new beliefs, a new *modus vivendi*?

Immigrant parents rue the loss of their kids to American language and culture. Religious parents mourn the children who leave the family's beliefs behind. A right-wing child can

By **VIRGINIA HEFFERNAN**

Los Angeles Times



be a source of acute heartbreak to liberals. (An article in *Der Spiegel* some years ago was titled "Shock Your Parents: Become a Neo-Nazi.") Many parents treat even experiments in style—say, the adoption of a hijab or Burning Man garb—as existential rejection.

In the battle over curriculum, the immediate goal for schools and teachers is to oppose any unconstitutional bans on ideas, while not dismissing as immoral anyone who objects to critical race theory. Parents are much more likely to appreciate the value of an intellectual challenge if schools acknowledge the primal parental fear that what gets taught may separate kids from their innocence, their faith, their optimism—and their families.

Instead of banning "The 1619 Project" or critical race theory from middle-school social studies classes, let's demand that principals and teachers address the unease some parents experience when their offspring are taught anything that contradicts what they themselves believe. At the same time, school administrators need to make it clear that classes in the humanities challenge students to examine existing beliefs. That doesn't make school-teachers "corrupters."

Teaching in the tradition of Socrates means unsettling students with hard questions. But an intellectual provocation like critical race theory is not a trauma. It's education.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GOP power politics for them, not you

I was wondering why the governor was planning solely on him winning for the Republican Party to stay in control of the Executive Office and, true to form, the governor and Republicans are preparing to execute the same old "power play" they used when former governor Fitial was in trouble—they split into two attacking groups (the Republicans and the Covenant). With two GOP candidates and one Democrat candidate, it will really be two against one, so guess who has the best chance to win. I know Arnold and crew are trying to figure out what banner to run under since they can't be Republicans so we can expect another "Covenant" or "Independent Republicans," which should remind voters they have already seen this movie that didn't turn out well for the people.

What the Republicans are really trying to do is against the law but we know that doesn't matter to Republicans. There should be a GOP runoff with this special election to avoid the need and cost for a runoff election, which will surely happen with two Republicans in the race. But more important is the fact that if Lt. Gov. Palacios is not running with the governor, it is a clear

signal that there is dissension within the party some downright skullduggery-scheming in a plan to keep GOP in power. In either case, the people of the CNMI are being preyed upon by the Republicans in a desperate attempt to stay in power.

But I truly hope and pray voters are smarter now and will do the right thing in the voting booth. If voters haven't learned their lessons from our own history of GOP politics, then we the people are doomed to make the same mistake again that has already killed our Japanese market and our economy while destroying all the integrity in our government. Voters, don't fall for this GOP power play that is designed solely to help the GOP and not the people because neither Ralph nor Arnold deserve to be our governor.

I do want to thank commenter el kapitan for his comments about the governor's power politics that only help his people and not we the people. While it is not my job to research everything, el kapitan is right that the governor has two PIO at high salary who don't tell us anything. Mr. Hunter's wife got another pay raise and many more hires and pay raises

taking place: Mr. Hunter's wife, Armi Hunter, whose salary jumped 60% within two-and-a-half months of a promotion she received. According to documents, the Office of Personnel Management on Oct. 19, 2020, began processing Ms. Hunter's promotion from Revenue Agent III at the Department of Finance Secretary's Office to Technical Financial Analyst making \$31,350.24 per year. She was even to receive a pay increase "upon lifting of austerity measures."

Gov. Ralph Torres also hired a second public information officer under the Public Assistance Office. The personnel action for Cecilia R. Taitano, the Republican who ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the CNMI House from Precinct 4, was made retroactive to Feb. 16, 2021 at an annual salary of \$40,000. Before her, the governor hired two project coordinators, each making \$32,000 annually, to his office. Maegan T. Norita, daughter of Torres crony Clyde Norita, was hired retroactive to Oct. 26, 2020. Chantel M. Royal, the first lady's niece, was hired retroactive to Dec. 7, 2020. The truth is we the people are suffering from the awful consequences of this governor's manipulation of our government and our federal funds for his personal intentions, his Cabinet, and party royalty.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman III, Saipan

HAITI

From Page 8

The well-intended creation of the nongovernmental organization (NGO) system in the 1960s led to a weakening of Haitian institutions, which critics say made it easier for foreign companies and NGOs to bypass Haiti's central government, further weakening self-governance by Haitians.

Considering its turbulent history, the people of the island and their relatives in the Haitian diaspora, particularly in Miami, deserve praise for their often tireless efforts to help their fellow Haitians. In recent years, the money sent back to Haiti in remittances—a record high of \$3.8 billion last year, according to the Haitian Times—accounts for at least a third of the island's economy.

Now, once again, the island looks to the outside world for

help, although with great reluctance, considering its long history of corrupt and corrupting outside influences.

In the short term, as social service and religious groups mobilize to deliver food, medicine and other supplies, relief organizations like (among others) UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders, Hope for Haiti and the American Red Cross especially deserve the support of U.S. onlookers.

In the longer term, thousands of Haitians left without homes, churches and other physical resources desperately need assistance after decades of struggling on the tragic side of the disaster divide.

The United States, among other nations with a long, not-always-glorious history with the island, should turn to credible and reliable leaders outside of government to help Haitians build a better future for themselves.

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THE FALL

From Page 8

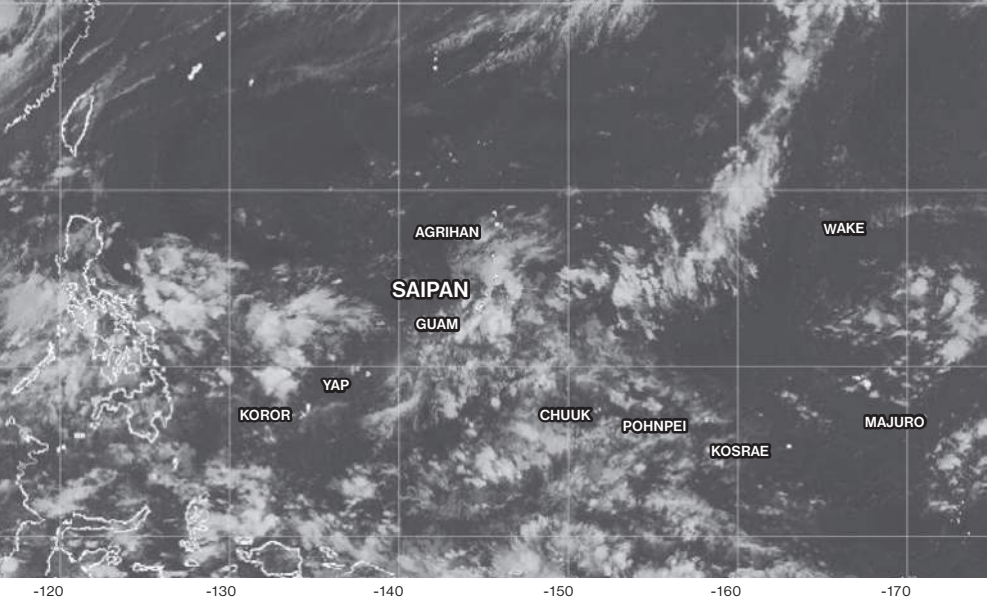
Biden and his aides already know most of this. The premises of his foreign policy—reviving U.S. domestic strength, revitalizing U.S. alliances, and focusing on vital interests like China and Russia—provide a foundation for recovery.

"My dad used to have an expression: If everything is equally important to you, nothing is important to you," the president said last week. "We should be focusing on where the threat is the greatest."

The test Biden faces now is whether he can execute that strategy—and show that he's credible where it matters most—more successfully than in his botched withdrawal from an unwinnable war.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 12:22 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light and variable to light southeast winds prevail over the Marianas as a surface trough slowly moves west. Radar and satellite indicate showers and thunderstorms just west of Tinian and Saipan's coastal waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Strong thunderstorms	78 / 83 °F	
Palau	Afternoon clouds	80 / 86 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F	
Chuuk	Cloudy	80 / 83 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	76 / 89 °F	
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Partly sunny	81 / 86 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:12 AM	8:39 PM
Thursday	-	9:02 AM	9:16 PM
Friday	-	9:50 AM	9:52 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 AM	10:29 PM
Sunday	-	11:27 AM	11:08 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	High level clouds	42 / 57 °F	
Beijing	Morning clouds	65 / 87 °F	
Hong Kong	Heavy rain	78 / 86 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	72 / 83 °F	
London	High level clouds	56 / 72 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 91 °F	
Manila	Heavy rain	80 / 83 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	50 / 63 °F	
Miami	Partly sunny	82 / 88 °F	
New York	Partly sunny	78 / 87 °F	
Osaka	Heavy rain	76 / 91 °F	
Paris	Mostly sunny	62 / 86 °F	
Pusan	Thunderstorms	78 / 86 °F	
Rome	Sunny	62 / 88 °F	
Salem	Mostly sunny	58 / 88 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	55 / 69 °F	
Seoul	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	78 / 87 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	76 / 94 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:40 AM	Low Tide	0.91	
8:58 AM	High Tide	1.95	
3:49 PM	Low Tide	0.28	
10:04 PM	High Tide	1.92	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1205 11:00 11:15 Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	

DHS seeks public comments on public charge rulemaking

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is seeking data and information from the public that DHS intends to use to develop a public charge regulatory proposal. The purpose of public comment is to ensure that the proposal is fair, consistent with law, and informed by relevant data and evidence. Public comment also will help DHS ensure that the proposed regulation does not impose undue burdens on non-citizens seeking admission to or adjustment of status in the United States.

"It is critical that immigrants, many of whom are essential and frontline workers, can access necessary government services for which they are eligible to keep their families safe and healthy," said Ur M. Jadou, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "DHS is taking an essential step to implement a fair and rational rule that does not cause

fear and confusion among immigrant communities. We will continue to uphold this administration's efforts to remove undue barriers in the immigration system and sources of fear that prevent immigrants from accessing benefits for which they are eligible."

DHS has published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to solicit data and information from the public, including from state, territorial, local and tribal agencies that administer public benefits programs, and from nonprofit organizations. The ANPRM identifies key considerations associated with the public charge ground of inadmissibility. These considerations include how DHS should define the term "public charge," which public benefits DHS should consider relevant to the public charge inadmissibility determination, and how DHS should assess the mandatory statutory factors when deter-

mining whether a noncitizen is likely to become a public charge. The ANPRM asks for feedback from the public on these and other matters. The public comment period is open for 60 days, beginning Aug. 23, 2021, and closing Oct. 22, 2021.

The ANPRM includes information about upcoming virtual public listening sessions that offer another opportunity for the public to provide DHS with relevant input for the public charge rulemaking.

Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a noncitizen who is likely to become a public charge is generally inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to become a lawful permanent resident. The ANPRM does not change how USCIS makes public charge inadmissibility determinations. Until DHS completes the rulemaking process and implements new regulations, USCIS will continue to

apply the public charge inadmissibility statute consistent with the 1999 Interim Field Guidance [PDF]. Under this guidance, USCIS does not consider a person's receipt of

Medicaid (except for Medicaid for long-term institutionalization), public housing, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and other nutrition assistance

as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination. Vaccinations or medical treatment for COVID-19 also are not considered for public charge purposes. (USCIS)

Want to learn a new language? Libraries offer free online learning

Want to learn a new language for free? That's easy, with the free access to the Mango Languages program where you will go through step by step lesson plans for over 70 world languages. Access Mango Languages online for free at your Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library (Rota) cardholders have free access to: step by step lesson plans for over 70 world languages and more than 20 ESL/ELL courses (Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese speakers, etc.); listening and reading activities for reinforcing learned material and building new skills; grammar and culture insights for authentic and reliable learning; assessments and chapter recaps to check understanding and learning progress personalized review that adapts to your learning pathway; study reminders to keep you on track and motivated family profiles for additional parent and family engagement; and a text translator.

Mango Languages is an award-winning language-education resource utilized by K-12 and Higher-Ed, corporations, library systems, and government agencies worldwide. On a mission to inspire curious people to forge deeper connections, Mango Languages is the only adaptive language-learning system powered by proven methodologies, designed to naturally establish retention and rapidly build conversation skills.

With Mango Languages,

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library (Rota) cardholders have free access to: step by step lesson plans for over 70 world languages and more than 20 ESL/ELL courses (Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Brazilian Portuguese, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Vietnamese speakers, etc.); listening and reading activities for reinforcing learned material and building new skills; grammar and culture insights for authentic and reliable learning; assessments and chapter recaps to check understanding and learning progress personalized review that adapts to your learning pathway; study reminders to keep you on track and motivated family profiles for additional parent and family engagement; and a text translator.

Start learning with Mango from mobile app or computer:

Step 1: Download the Mango Languages mobile app from the App Store (iOS) or the Google Play Store (Android). Or from your computer go to www.cnmlib.org and click on the MANGO Language icon. Log in if you already have an account, or sign up to create a user profile.

Step 2: Enter your library card# and your library issued pin#

Step 3: Select your language course. Choose from over 70 world languages, including English, and start learning!

Questions about Mango Languages? Contact Omar Manacop at (670) 235-7315 or 235-7322/7323(READ).

This project was also made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' American Rescue Plan Act grant award. (PR)

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.3-magnitude quake in Marianas

At 9:30am on Aug. 24, 2021, a report of a 4.3-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.684°N 143.028°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670)-237-8000. (PR)

4.6-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 10:51pm on Aug. 23, 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred in the Pagan region of the

Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami

Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

**A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**(1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE COORDINATOR /
SHELTER SUPERVISOR
(1) VICTIM HOTLINE COORDINATOR**

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office in Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 AT 4:00PM

Heinz and Susan S. Hofschneider
P.O. Box 500469
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No: 234-5869

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of)
the Adoption of:)

A.V. H.) FCD-AD-
Minor Child) CIVIL ACTION
By:) NO. 21-0339
Heinz S.)
Hofschneider) **NOTICE OF**
and Susan S.) **HEARING**
Hofschneider)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2021.

Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP21-DOF/OIT-163**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M

**"REVENUE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (RMIS) FOR THE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO MR. JOSEPH O. TORRES, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, ACTING CHIEF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, AT 670-322-1418 OR VIA E-MAIL AT j.torres@dof.gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ NO.: RFQ21-DOF/OIT-162**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M

**"PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE
CNMI GOVERNMENT REVENUE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/s/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



FRONTLINE MARITIME LLC

JOB VACANCY

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OR
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Business

What does FDA's approval of Pfizer COVID vaccine mean?

By MATTHEW PERRONE
AP HEALTH WRITER

What does full approval of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine mean?

It means Pfizer's shot for people 16 and older has now undergone the same rigorous testing and regulatory review as dozens of other long-established vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. were initially rolled out under the Food and Drug Administration's emergency use authorization, which allows the agency to speed the availability of medical products during public health emergencies.

Under the process, the FDA waived some of its normal data requirements and procedures to make the COVID-19 vaccines available months earlier than would have been possible under normal circumstances.

Pfizer's vaccine—along with those from Moderna and Johnson & Johnson—still underwent testing in tens of thousands of people to establish safety and effectiveness against COVID-19. But the FDA initially required the companies to submit about

only two months of safety monitoring data on study participants, the period when side effects are most likely to occur.

For full approval, the FDA required six months of follow-up data. FDA inspectors

also visited the plants where the vaccines are made and reviewed each step of the production process for extra assurance that the shots are made under safe, sterile conditions.

Diner leaves a \$10,000 tip for workers at Florida restaurant

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—A diner at a north Florida restaurant gathered the staff of 10 together to thank them for their hard work before leaving them a \$10,000 tip to share.

It happened last Tuesday night as the man, his wife and son finished their dinner at the Wahoo Seafood Grill, the Gainesville Sun reported.

Shawn Shepherd, who owns Wahoo, told the newspaper he got a call from his employees that night, alerting him to the big tip. His first thought was to be suspicious.

"Check his ID and the name on the back of his credit card," Shepherd advised the employee who called.

But the restaurant's point-of-sale system approved the

transaction. Shepherd said he checked back the next day to make sure the money was still there.

"Watching these guys get their check was almost as good as Christmas morning," Shepherd told the Sun.

He said he's very thankful to the diner because his employees have been loyal to the restaurant through the pandemic.

Among those benefitting from the big tip was Ashley Green, who was called into work that day. She had recently endured a rough time because her daughter was ill.

"She's had a hard month, she's been not able to work. Kid has been in and out of the hospital. It's been absolutely a really stressful time for her," Shepherd said.

Roland earns professional designation for sustainable, responsible, impact investing

HAGATNA, Guam—Daniel A. Roland, CIMA, AIFA, managing director and senior institutional consultant of the Asia Pacific Group of Raymond James on Guam has obtained the Chartered SRI Counselor professional designation. The CSRIC program was developed in collaboration with industry-group leader U.S. SIF. It provides investment professionals with information pertaining to the history, definitions, trends, portfolio construction principles, fiduciary responsibilities, and best practices for sustainable investments.

The CSRIC professional designation is a groundbreaking certification in the fast-growing field of sustainable, responsible, and impact investing. This designation is the first major financial credential dedicated specifically to sustainable investing.

This course was developed by the College for Financial Planning in partnership with U.S. SIF: The Forum for Sus-

tainable and Responsible Investment—the leading voice advancing sustainable investing across all asset classes in the United States.

"I am committed to providing guidance tailored to my clients throughout our region, and to the unique environment in which we live," said Daniel.

"Aligning client values with their investments and being able to bring an increased focus on sustainable investing continues to be more important than ever, especially in this part of the world being greatly impacted by

the effects of climate change. Earning this designation further reflects that commitment. It enhances my ability to provide holistic, comprehensive and personalized strategies that help my clients be good stewards of their money as well as the environment."

Daniel serves on the Raymond James Sustainable Investing Advisory Council, composed of a select group of 16 financial advisors across the firm's affiliation models.

Established in 2018, the council's mission is to continue to enhance the firm's sustainable investing capabilities and resources made available to the firm's approximately 8,200 advisors and their clients.

Raymond James & Associates, Inc. is a member of the New York Stock Exchange/SIPC, which has built a national reputation for more than 50 years as a leader in financial planning for individuals, corporations and municipalities, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Raymond James Financial, Inc., a leading diversified financial services company with approximately 8,200 financial advisors throughout the United States, Canada and overseas. Total client assets are \$1.1 trillion. Additional information is available at www.raymondjames.com.

The College for Financial Planning is a degree-granting institution that has various financial certification programs available for students. It provides graduate degree, non-degree and continuing professional education programs for students. It was founded in 1972 and is now part of Kaplan Financial. (PR)



Roland

Nation

NYC mandates vaccinations for public school teachers and staff

NEW YORK (AP)—All New York City public school teachers and other staffers will have to get vaccinated against the coronavirus, officials said Monday, ramping up pandemic protections as the nation's largest school system prepares for classes to start next month.

The city previously said

teachers, like other city employees, would have to get the shots or get tested weekly for the virus. The new policy marks the first no-option vaccination mandate for a broad group of city workers in the nation's most populous city, though Mayor Bill de Blasio announced Friday that coaches and students in

football, basketball and other "high-risk" sports would have to get inoculated before play begins.

Unions bristled at the new requirement, saying the city needed to negotiate, not dictate. Two big city workers' groups were planning to file a labor complaint or take legal action.



WESTERN WILDFIRES

Cal Fire vehicles line up along Highway 50 in Strawberry, Calif., on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2021, as smoke from the Caldor Fire burning on both side of the route fills the air. A wildfire burning for a week in Northern California continued to grow out of control, one of about a dozen big blazes in the drought-stricken state that have destroyed hundreds of homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

SARA NEVIS/THE SACRAMENTO BEE VIA AP



ACROSS THE NATION

Pentagon to mandate COVID-19 vaccine, as Pfizer is approved

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon said Monday that it will require service members to receive the COVID-19 vaccine now that the Pfizer vaccine has received full approval. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is making good on his vow earlier this month to require the shots once the Food and Drug Administration approved the vaccine. He said guidance is being developed and a timeline will be provided in the coming days. Austin's decision reflects similar moves by governments and companies around the world, as nations struggle with the highly contagious delta variant that has sent U.S. cases surging to heights not seen since last winter. And hospitalizations and deaths are increasing among the military. Over the past month, the number of service member deaths jumped from 25 to 34 — more than a one third increase. There are more than 1.3 million on active duty and close to 800,000 in the Guard and Reserve.

Cleanup begins in soggy Northeast as Henri plods back to sea

MONROE TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—Residents across the waterlogged Northeast began clearing mud and tearing out sodden carpets Monday after deluges dropped by Tropical Storm Henri, whose remnants threatened further flooding in New England as the system made a slow trek back to the sea. The smell of sewage filled the air as residents of Rossmoor, a retirement community in central New Jersey's Monroe Township, returned to

soaked homes and ruined possessions after Henri turned their streets into rivers. Roseann and John Kiernan said they'd have to likely toss their appliances, tear up walls and carpets and replace their car after their house filled with nearly 2 feet of water on Sunday. "This is what we were left with. Nothing, nothing," lamented Roseann Kiernan. "They told us that everything has to go."

Kathy Hochul becomes New York's first female governor

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Kathy Hochul became the first female governor of New York at the stroke of midnight Tuesday, taking control of a state government desperate to get back to business after months of distractions over sexual harassment allegations against Andrew Cuomo. The Democrat from western New York was sworn in as governor in a brief, private ceremony in the New York State Capitol overseen by the state's chief judge, Janet DiFiore. Hochul's ascent to the top job was a history-making moment in a capital where women have only recently begun chipping away at a notoriously male-dominated political culture. Cuomo left office at 12:00 a.m., two weeks after he announced he would resign rather than face a likely impeachment battle. He submitted his resignation letter late Monday to the leaders of the state Assembly and Senate. On his final day in office, Cuomo released a pre-recorded farewell address in which he defended his record over a decade as New York's governor and portrayed himself as the victim of a "media frenzy."

Asia

Deadly gunfire at Afghan airport; Taliban insist on US pullout date

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A firefight outside Kabul's international airport killed an Afghan soldier early Monday, highlighting the perils of evacuation efforts as the Taliban warned that any attempt by U.S. troops to delay their withdrawal to give people more time to flee would "provoke a reaction."

The shooting came as the Taliban moved to shore up their position and eliminate pockets of armed resistance to their lightning takeover earlier this month. The Taliban said they retaken three districts north of the capital

seized by opponents the day before and had surrounded Panjshir, the last province that remains out of their control.

Afghanistan's security forces collapsed in the face of the Taliban advance, despite 20 years of Western training and assistance. Since then, tens of thousands of Afghans have sought to flee the country, fearing a return to the brutal rule the Taliban imposed the last time they ran Afghanistan. That has led to chaos at the airport in Kabul, the main route out of the country.

U.S. President Joe Biden has not ruled out extending

the evacuation beyond Aug. 31, the date he set for completing the pullout of U.S. forces. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson plans to press Biden for an extension.

But Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen, in an interview with Sky News, said Aug. 31 is a "red line" and that extending the American presence would "provoke a reaction."

Gunfire broke out early Monday near an entrance to the airport, where at least seven Afghans died a day earlier in a panicked stampede of thousands of people.



In this image provided by the U.S. Marine Corps, families begin to board a U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Aug. 23, 2021.

SGT. SAMUEL RUIZ/U.S. MARINE CORPS VIA AP

Vietnam tightens lockdown ahead of Harris visit

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's largest metropolis, Ho Chi Minh City, went into a tightened lockdown Monday to battle its worst outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, just a day ahead of the arrival of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on a state visit.

The city has mobilized police and army troops to enforce the lockdown and to deliver food as well as necessities to each household, city authorities announced. Under the stricter measures imposed for

at least two weeks, people in "high risk" districts are not allowed to leave their homes.

"People must absolutely stay put, isolate from each other, from house to house, from community to community," Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said when the new restrictions were announced last week.

On Sunday evening, just hours before the intensified lockdown went into effect, the ministry reported 737 virus deaths, its highest single-day total, increasing

the death toll since the pandemic began to 8,277, most in the southern region.

Harris is scheduled to hold talks with Vietnamese leaders including Chinh on the COVID-19 situation, as well as regional security issues and economic cooperation, the state-owned Tuoi Tre newspaper reported.

Her visit will be to the capital, Hanoi, which is more than 1,100 kilometers (700 miles) north of Ho Chi Minh City but is also under lockdown.

Tokyo opens oxygen station for COVID patients

TOKYO (AP)—Japan on Monday opened a temporary facility in Tokyo to provide oxygen for up to 130 coronavirus patients with mild symptoms, as the capital's health care system grows severely strained.

The so-called "oxygen station" in Tokyo's Shibuya district is aimed at people who develop a problem while isolating at home or waiting for hospital vacancies, and is staffed by three doctors and 25 nurses.

The idea is to temporarily treat mild cases with supplementary oxygen amid growing

concerns that people may get sicker—and possibly start dying at home—in the absence of medical attention.

Tokyo has been under emergency measures for the majority of the year, most recently since July 12. But new daily cases have increased more than tenfold since then to about 5,000 in Tokyo and 25,000 nationwide, quickly filling up hospital beds and forcing many people to recover at home, some of whom require supplemental oxygen.

As of Monday, nearly 40,000 patients in Tokyo are recover-

ing at home or in hotels, compared to about 4,000 hospitalizations. A growing number of patients spend hours on ambulances trying to find hospitals. Around 15,600 people have died since the pandemic began.

Although Japan has far fewer cases than many other countries, the wealthy nation's pandemic response is near collapse. Only a small percentage of hospitals are taking virus patients, either for financial reasons or because they lack the capability to treat infectious diseases, experts say.

World

Lebanese hospitals at breaking point as everything runs out

BEIRUT (AP)—Drenched in sweat, doctors check patients lying on stretchers in the reception area of Lebanon's largest public hospital. Air conditioners are turned off, except in operating rooms and storage units, to save on fuel.

Medics scramble to find alternatives to saline solutions after the hospital ran out. The shortages are overwhelming, the medical staff exhausted. And with a new surge in coronavirus cases, Lebanon's hospitals are at a breaking point.

The country's health sector is a casualty of the multiple crises that have plunged Lebanon into a downward spiral—a financial and economic meltdown, compounded by a complete failure of the government, runaway corruption and a pandemic that isn't going away.

The collapse is all the more dramatic since only a few years ago, Lebanon was a leader in medical care in the Arab world. The region's rich and famous came to this small Mideast nation of 6 million for everything, from major hospital procedures to plastic surgeries.

THE NEW NORMAL

Ghaidaa al-Saddik, a second-year resident, had just returned from a week off after an exhausting year. Back on duty for a week, she has already intubated two critical patients in the emergency room, both in their 30s.

She struggles to admit new patients, knowing how short on supplies the hospital is, scared to be blamed for mistakes and questioning if she is doing her best. Many patients are asked to bring their own medicines, such as steroids. Others are discharged too soon—often to homes where power outages last for days.

"You feel like you are trapped," said al-Saddik.

The 28-year-old spends more nights in the staff dorms studying because at home, she has no electricity. She moved to an apartment closer to the hospital that she shares with two other people to save on rent and transportation. With the collapse of Lebanon's currency amid the crisis, her salary has lost nearly 90% of its value.

With fewer and fewer residents, she must now do the rounds for about 30 patients, instead of 10. Her mentor, a senior virologist, has left Lebanon—one of many in a

brain drain of medical professionals.

"I want to help my people," she said. "But at the same time, what about me being a better doctor?"

RUNNING ON EMPTY

The Rafik Hariri University Hospital is Lebanon's largest public hospital and the country's No. 1 for the treatment of coronavirus patients. Lebanon has so far registered nearly 590,000 infections and over 8,000 deaths.

The hospital, which depended on the state power company, had to start relying on generators for at least 12 hours a day. Since last Monday, the generators have been the only source of power, running non-stop. Most of the hospital's diesel, sold at the black market at five times the official price, is either donated by political parties or international aid groups.

To save on fuel, some rooms run only electrical fans in the sweltering summer heat. Not all hospital elevators are working. Bed capacity has been downsized by about 15% and the ER admits only life-threatening cases.

It is a perpetual crisis that has left the hospital always on the brink, says its director, Firas Abiad. There are "shortages of almost everything."

Every day, he struggles to secure more fuel—the hospital has a maximum two-day supply at any time. Shelves are thin on medicines, including for cancer patients and dialysis. A new aid shipment of blood serum will last just a few days.

"We can hardly get by," said Jihad Bikai, head of the ER. He recently had to send a critical patient to another hospital because he no longer has a vascular surgeon on staff.

WHAT HAPPENED?

Lebanon's financial crisis, rooted in years of corruption and mismanagement, spilled out into the streets in late 2019, with antigovernment protests and demands for accountability. Political leaders have since failed to agree on a recovery program or even a new government—leaving the previous one in perpetual but stumped caretaker role.

The World Bank has described the crisis as among the worst in over a century. In just two and a half years, the majority of the population has been plunged into poverty,

the national currency is collapsing and foreign reserves have run dry.

Power outages have for years forced a dependence on private generators but the crisis took on new dimensions this summer as fuel and diesel became scarce, disrupting the work of hospitals, bakeries, internet providers and many other businesses.

Then last August, a massive explosion at Beirut's port—when hundreds of tons of improperly stored ammonium nitrate ignited—destroyed entire neighborhoods of the city and killed 214 people. Thousands were injured, inundating hospitals, some of which lost members of their staff and were forced to shut down temporarily.

On a recent afternoon at the Rafik Hariri hospital, nurse Mustafa Harqous, 39, tried to ignore the ruckus outside the coronavirus ER: patients with oxygen masks waiting for a bed to free up, families pressing to visit sick relatives, others arguing over out-of-stock drugs.

He went about his work in the 25-bed room. Except for a month-old baby, the patients were mostly men in their 30s and 40s.

"Some people understand the shortages are not our fault," he said. "But many don't."

He worries how he will fill up his car for the drive home, an hour and a half away. The government, he said, is "leaving people in the middle of the sea with no rescue boat."

NO WAY OUT

Reports say at least 2,500 doctors and nurses have left Lebanon this year. At the Rafik Hariri hospital, at least 30% of doctors and more than 10% of nurses left, most recently five in one day. Many private hospitals, who offer 80% of Lebanon's medical services, are shutting down because of lack of resources or turning away patients who can't pay.

Bikai, the 37-year-old ER chief, was offered a job in a neighboring country. His salary is barely enough to cover his son's dentist's bills. His wife, also a doctor, works by his side in the ER.

"There is a moment, when you are pushing hard to get over a mountain, and you get to a place, you can't move," he said. "I worry we'll get to that."

Good Housekeeping



A bookcase serves as a display opportunity for decorative objects.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS

‘Dressing’ your home’s shelves

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Whether it’s a built-in curio cabinet in a dining space, open shelves in a living room or den or shelving in a kitchen, how does one properly “dress” shelves without them looking messy or distracting? Shelf dressing is a designer technique, in which staging techniques are used to create visually appealing display vignettes. What are the best items to use to fill shelves? Some of the best elements can range from larger items such as baskets to smaller elements such as small figurines vases and blooms.

Looking to make you shelves “dressed for success?” Here are some top tips.

1 Utilize hard bound books. Hard bound books are one of the most

inexpensive decorative elements that can be used to fill shelves. Want to avoid color? Try turning books around or using books with covers that are in muted tones.

2 Incorporate small elements such as blooms and figurines. These elements can also be paired with other items that are of similar size such as picture frames, hour glasses and small accessories.

3 Consider “blocking” larger opening with elements such as baskets, bins and larger vases.

4 Experiment with color. Use shelves as an opportunity to blend and continue “pops of color” throughout a space.

5 Layer your shelving décor. If you are looking to add visual interest, consider experimenting with decorative elements of various sizes and heights.

LIVING SMART: Consider seamless countertops

If you’re spending a good amount of money to have new countertops installed in your kitchen, you’ll likely want the end result to be perfect—free from visible seams.

Seams can stand out and can take away from the overall appearance of the countertops. The lack of seams would give the countertops a smoother, more appealing look. According to countertop experts, stone countertops are your best bet for seamless perfection.

“Seamless countertops are definitely possible,” says Joy Coleman of highly rated A Joy of Granite & Natural Stone in Dallas. “A slab can come in lots of different sizes. We always try to make sure there are as few seams as possible anyway, but if it’s the right kitchen with the right sizes for the slab, then the countertop can be installed without any seams at all.”

Buying granite slabs

The Dallas countertop expert explains how her company orders “a slab that is the same size or bigger than the measurement needed for the countertops. The only problem is if you can’t find a slab that fits the exact measurements that you need. In that case, you will have to order a slab that’s larger than what you need.”

Depending on how much of the slab will be left, this may not be very cost effective. Instead of wasting extra money and materials, some homeowners should consider ordering slabs in smaller sizes so that the exact measurements can be met without overcompensating. Although seams will be inevitable when fitting several smaller slabs together, there are ways to make them blend with the countertops so that they are virtually invisible.

Michael Field of highly rated Quality Surfaces Inc. in Spencer, Ind., shares how he deals with countertop seams. “Stone countertops usually come in slabs that are 100 inches to 120 inches long. If the measurements for the countertop are longer than that, you’re going to end up with seams,” he says. “With stone countertops, though, we can easily do inconspicuous seams. The seams are there, but they aren’t visible. They just blend right in with the rest of the countertop.”

The Indianapolis, Ind.-area countertop in-

staller says to achieve a seamless look, “We use a liquid form of the exact same material that was used for the countertops to fill the space between the slabs. Then we put the sealer on the countertops. When it’s all finished, you can’t even tell that there’s a seam there because it matches the rest of the countertop so closely.”

Making granite countertops seamless

If you’re insistent on having seamless countertops in your kitchen, the first step is to have a professional take measurements to see if there are large enough slabs available. If a slab cannot be sized to fit your kitchen, draw upon the experience of your countertop installer who will help come up with the solution to best fit your needs. (*Angie’s List*)

DIY garage door maintenance

You don’t have to be an expert to extend the lifespan of your garage door. In fact, there are a few simple DIY tasks that will keep any garage door looking good and running smoothly for years.

■ Check the tracks, rollers and hinges

It’s important to give your garage door a once-over every once and awhile.

There are a lot of moving parts on a garage door—from the chain that moves it up and down, to the rollers that bring it up, to the hinges that allow it to bend. All of these items need to be inspected for wear and tear. All it takes is for one of these items to break or go off track for the entire system to fail.

■ Tighten all screws and bolts

It’s worth paying attention to all of the moving parts of the garage door, but specifically loose bolts and nuts, which can cause larger problems. The opener is likely loud on its own, but if things are loose, such as the connection from the motor to the ceiling, the sound is likely going to be amplified. Check all the connecting nuts and bolts to be sure that they are tight.

Angie’s List is a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Caramelized Onion and Goat Cheese Panini

Don’t reserve the grill just for dinner. Assemble these delicious appetizer paninis and make them hot and crunchy on the grill.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 (1 pound each) sweet onions, thinly sliced
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
- 8 (1/2-inch thick) center slices country-style bread
- 4 ounces soft, fresh goat cheese

1 In nonstick 12-inch skillet, heat oil on medium for one minute. Stir in onions, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper; cover and cook 15 minutes or until very soft, stirring occasionally. Uncover and cook 15 to 25 minutes longer or until onions are

golden brown, stirring frequently. Stir in thyme; remove pan from heat.

2 Prepare outdoor grill for direct grilling on medium.

3 Meanwhile, assemble panini: Place 4 slices bread on work surface. Spread one-fourth of goat cheese on each slice and top with one-fourth of onion mixture. Top with remaining bread slices.

4 Place 2 panini on hot grill grate. Place heavy skillet (preferably cast iron) on top of panini, press down, and cook 7 to 8 minutes or until bread is toasted and browned on both sides, turning over once. Repeat with remaining two panini. Cut in halves or quarters to serve. Makes 8 appetizer servings.

***Each serving:** About 190 calories, 8g total fat (3g saturated), 7mg cholesterol, 375mg sodium, 24g total carbohydrate, 3g dietary fiber, 7g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/food-recipes/. (*Hearst Communications, Inc.*)

Life & Style

R. Kelly accuser testifies that he sexually abused her at 17

NEW YORK (AP)—Another accuser took the witness stand on Monday at R. Kelly's sex-trafficking trial, testifying that the R&B superstar sexually abused her on his tour bus and in hotel rooms when she was still a high school student and an aspiring singer.

The woman, identified only as "Jane Doe," said Kelly once beat her with a shoe and wept when she also claimed that she contracted herpes after having sex with him. She said he hadn't disclosed he had a sexually transmitted disease.

"This man purposely gave me something he knew he had," she said. "He could have controlled the situation."

A prosecutor in federal court in Brooklyn repeatedly asked the witness how old she was when the abuse took place in 2015. "I was 17 years old," she responded each time.



In this courtroom artist's sketch made from a video screen monitor of a Brooklyn courtroom, defendant R. Kelly, left, listens during the opening day of his trial, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021 in New York.

Last week, a jury heard similar testimony from the trial's first witness, who described being a 16-year-old virgin when Kelly began sexually exploiting her in 2010. Both women claimed they were forced to call him

"Daddy" and follow his draconian rules restricting how they could dress, who they could speak with and when they could use the bathroom.

Kelly, 54, has denied accusations that he preyed on several alleged victims during a

30-year career highlighted by his smash hit "I Believe I Can Fly," a 1996 song that became an inspirational anthem. Kelly has denied the accusations with his lawyers calling the accusers groupies who wanted

to take advantage of his fame.

The latest witness, now 23, testified on Monday that she met Kelly while he was performing on his "Black Panties" tour. She told him she was an aspiring performer

and lied about her age, saying she was 18.

She testified she had no romantic interest in Kelly.

"I just wanted to sing," she said. "I genuinely wanted his input."

Mayim Bialik to guest host 'Jeopardy!' after Richards' exit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jeopardy!" is back to guest hosts after the resignation of Mike Richards, and actor Mayim Bialik will return as the first one up.

Sony Pictures Television announced Monday that Bialik will take the podium long occupied by the late Alex Trebek for three weeks of episodes.

The 45-year-old "Big Bang Theory" and "Blossom" actor was one of many guest hosts who filled in for two-week

stints in the past season after the death of Trebek, who hosted the show for 37 seasons. Trebek died in November at age 80 of cancer.

When Richards was announced as the new host on Aug. 11, producers also revealed that Bialik would have an ongoing role as emcee for "Jeopardy!" prime-time and spinoff series, including a new college championship.

Sony's news release Monday said other guest hosts would follow Bialik



Bialik

and made no mention of a permanent replacement.

Richards, the show's executive producer, had been announced as host just nine days earlier when he stepped down Friday after a report of past demeaning comments he had made about women, homeless people and others on a podcast. Richards selection after a parade of celebrity contenders was met by a chorus of criticism.

The episodes that Richards taped last week will air when the show returns for its 38th season starting Sept. 13.

UK court rules against Sex Pistols singer

LONDON (AP)—A British judge ruled Monday that songs by punk trailblazers the Sex Pistols can be used in a forthcoming TV series despite the opposition of former frontman John Lydon.

Ex-Pistols guitarist Steve Jones and drummer Paul Cook sued the singer, once known as Johnny Rotten, after he tried to block the music's use in "Pistol," a Disney-backed series based on a memoir by Jones.

Lydon said during hearings at the High Court last month that he "heart and soul" opposed the music's use in a show he considered to be

"nonsense." He has previously expressed concerns the series will show him in a negative light.

Lydon said the songs could not be licensed without his consent, but Cook and Jones claimed that an agreement dating from 1998 allowed a majority decision.

Judge Anthony Mann agreed the pair were entitled to invoke "majority voting rules" as outlined in the band agreement. He said Lydon's claim that he was not aware of the details or implications of the agreement that he had signed was "a convenient

contrivance."

"I reject the suggestion made by him that he did not really know or appreciate its effect," the judge said.

Cook and Jones welcomed the ruling. They said the court battle "has not been a pleasant experience, but we believe it was necessary to allow us to move forward and hopefully work together in the future with better relations."

"Pistol" is being made for Disney subsidiary FX and is directed by Danny Boyle, the Academy Award-winning director of "Trainspotting" and "Slumdog Millionaire."

Henri cuts short Manilow set at NYC virus recovery concert

NEW YORK (AP)—This time, Barry Manilow didn't make it through the rain.

Unlike the Grammy-winning recording artist's 1980 hit, "I Made It Through Rain," the superstar-laden "Homecoming Concert" in New York City's Central Park was canceled because of dangerous weather as Hurricane Henri approached the Northeast on Saturday.

Manilow began performing "Can't Smile Without You," as part of a medley of his hits when the announcement inter-

rupted his performance, ordering concert goers to immediately leave the park and seek shelter. The singer continued on, not realizing at first what was happening.

Organizers repeated over public address for concertgoers to "calmly move to the nearest exits and proceed to areas outside of the park."

The five-hour concert, intended to celebrate New York City's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, was about halfway through when the weather became an is-

sue. Heavy rain and lightning filled the sky.

As the crowd—estimated at more than 60,000—began leaving the concert area, there was a moment of optimism that the show might resume once the weather cleared. But a few minutes later, another announcement said it was canceled as the downpour intensified.

Mayor Bill de Blasio later tweeted, "While it's disappointing that tonight's concert had to end early, the safety of everyone in attendance had to come first."

Young woman feels pressure to be 'perfect'

DEAR ABBY: My name is "Lucia," I am 15 and I live in Santa Catarina, Brazil. My high school classmates and I saw a letter from "Needs a Direction, Atlanta" online. That's why I'm asking for some advice from you.

Here in my country, there is a lot of awareness about female power and body positivity, however, we also have a standard of beauty that many girls can't or don't want to follow. On social media we see a lot of perfect girls with thousands of followers on Instagram. I don't let myself be shaken by my appearance or my defects, but sometimes I feel "excluded" because I'm not like the "amazing girl on social media."

I like the way I look, but I feel out of place in relation to what is expected of teenage beauty. What advice would you give me to avoid feeling inferior to the "amazing girls on social media"?

COPING WITH BEING ME

DEAR COPING: Understand that outward appearance is only one aspect of a person. Looking like they were stamped out of a cookie cutter is a mistake too many girls (and women) make. Please know you are far from the only female who struggles with her self-image. The images and lives displayed on social media are oftentimes not reality.

What you must remember is the importance of being YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF. Be neat, clean and well-

groomed in your daily life. Be friendly to others. What are your talents, qualities and goals? Concentrate on developing them because they not only won't fade with time, they will continue to improve. If you do this, others will find you attractive, and it won't require cosmetic surgery, regardless of how popular it may be in your country. (And mine.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A large neighborhood group, social and friendly, has been invaded by someone with wandering hands. I was the recipient of three incidents. I know of other women who have experienced the same, yet they won't share it with their husbands. My husband saw it happen and was on it. He not only protected me, but made sure the offender knew we would not tolerate it. The result? We are now the outcasts of gatherings!

Everyone is trying to convince us to "make up" and accept the error of the "drunk." We forgive, yet we have chosen not to be in that group. Our neighbors keep saying we should "forgive and forget" and "get over it" so we can rejoin them. It's not that easy. As much as we initially enjoyed everyone's company, it's no longer the same. Please advise.

AT A CROSSROADS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR AT A CROSSROADS: Tell your well-meaning

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



(and forgiving) neighbors you know they mean well, but that when the person put his hands on you, you felt disrespected and threatened. (I assume "the drunk" never offered you an apology.) If you prefer not to be in that person's company, that is your privilege. Be sure your neighbors know you would be open to socializing with them separately, so they won't feel you are snubbing them. Then direct your energy toward cultivating a different group with whom you feel more comfortable.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Stanton, Yankees win 10th straight, cool off Braves, 5-1



ATLANTA (AP)—

In a historic match-up between two of baseball's hottest teams, the New York Yankees kept right on rolling.

Giancarlo Stanton homered and drove in three runs to carry the Yankees to their 10th straight victory, cooling off the streaking Atlanta Braves 5-1 on Monday night.

New York snapped the first-place Braves' own nine-game winning streak in the first regular-season matchup in almost 120 years between teams that had won at least nine in a row.

"We like winning," Gary Sánchez, who drove in New York's other two runs, said through an interpreter. "Winning is fun."

Stanton homered in the second inning off Huascar Ynoa (4-3) and snapped a 1-all tie in the sixth with a two-out, two-run double.

"He's a unicorn," manager Aaron Boone said. "He does things every night that are a little bit different than everybody else."

Sánchez gave New York some insurance with another two-out hit in the eighth, singling through the shift to bring home two more runs.

The Yankees haven't lost since they played in an Iowa cornfield, giving up a walk-off homer to the White Sox in the Field of Dreams game on Aug. 12.

On a field of sweat night in Atlanta—the temperature was 88 degrees at first pitch—Jordan Montgomery (5-5) worked around four walks in his five-inning stint. He limited the Braves to two hits, including a homer by Dansby Swanson.

The Yankees' bullpen took it from there. Jonathan Loaisiga pitched two scoreless innings, striking out four. Wandy Peralta scattered a couple of hits in the eighth and Aroldis Chapman finished off Atlanta with a 1-2-3 ninth.

"I didn't have much going today," Montgomery said. "But we won."

In the second, Stanton put the Yankees ahead with his 21st homer — going the opposite way with a 387-foot shot into the Chop House restaurant in right.

The Braves tied it in the bottom half with a long ball of their own. Swanson launched a 408-foot drive into the Atlanta bullpen for his 25th homer of the season.

New York went ahead for good in the sixth, taking advantage of Ynoa's only spurt of wildness.

After plunking DJ LeMahieu with a pitch, Ynoa retired the next two hitters before issuing his only walk of the night to Joey Gallo.

Stanton made the Atlanta pitcher pay, lining a one-hop double off the wall in left to bring home both runners.

Still, Ynoa turned in another strong start in his second appearance since an extended stint on the injured list after hurting his right hand punching a wall in frustration. He allowed four hits, three runs and struck out nine over six innings.

"I feel like every time he goes out there, he's always down to compete," Swanson said. "And that's something I love about him."

Montgomery was backed up by a couple of stellar defensive plays, in-



New York Yankees' Giancarlo Stanton follows through on a solo home run in the second during a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, in Atlanta. AP

cluding a diving catch by Gallo down the left-field line to rob Guillermo Heredia of a hit in the second. Aaron Judge also made a nice running catch in deep center.

The game was played in a playoff-like atmosphere, with a near-sellout crowd of 39,176 at Truist Park and plenty of "Let's Go Yankees!" chants to spice things up.

It marked the first matchup between two teams this hot since Sept. 7, 1901, when the Pittsburgh Pirates took a 10-game winning streak into their contest against the Philadelphia Phillies, who had won nine in a row.

The Phillies won 4-1 for their 10th straight victory, but Pittsburgh went on to capture the NL pennant. The first World Series would not be held for two more years.

Cubs 6, Rockies 4

In Chicago, Rafael Ortega hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Chicago ended its longest home losing streak with a win over Colorado.

Pinch-hitter Jason Heyward started the ninth with a single, and Ortega came up an out later and hit the game's only homer to right as the Cubs scored five runs in the final two innings to snap a 13-game losing streak at Wrigley Field, the longest in franchise history.

Reliever David Bard (7-9) allowed the game-winner after a walk-filled eighth inning helped the Cubs to get closer.

Sam Hilliard singled home a pair to cap a three-run first for the Rockies, who later got a sacrifice fly from Connor Joe. C.J. Cron had three hits for Colorado, which dropped its second straight after a five-game winning streak.

Manuel Rodriguez (2-2) earned the victory after pitching the ninth for Chicago.

Royals 7, Astros 1

In Houston, Whit Merrifield had three hits and three RBIs, Salvador Perez extended a career high with his 33rd homer and Kansas City

beat Houston for its seventh win in eight games.

Merrifield had an RBI double in the seventh inning and drove in two more with a triple in Kansas City's three-run eighth.

Royals rookie starter Daniel Lynch (4-3) yielded six hits and one run with three walks in five innings for his third straight win.

Zack Greinke (11-4) took the loss. He permitted six hits and two runs in six innings.

Blue Jays 2, White Sox 1

In Toronto, pinch-runner Breyvic Valera scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch in the eighth inning, and Toronto beat Chicago.

Valera ran for Reese McGuire after the Blue Jays catcher singled off Craig Kimbrel (2-4) to begin the inning. Valera took second on a wild third strike to Bo Bichette, advanced to third on a groundout, and scored when Kimbrel uncorked another wild pitch, this time to Teoscar Hernández.

Tim Lincecum (3-1) pitched a perfect eighth inning to earn the win, and Jordan Romano finished for his 12th save in 13 chances.

Toronto spoiled a strong outing by Chicago's Lance Lynn and handed the White Sox their fourth loss in five games.

Mariners 5, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Jake Bauers hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning as Oakland closer Lou Trivino struggled again, and Seattle rallied past the Athletics.

Ty France hit a tying homer off Trivino (5-6) to start the ninth, handing Trivino his second straight blown save after converting 14 in a row. The A's lost a third straight game by giving away a late lead.

Matt Olson's 32nd home run in the sixth put Oakland on top after Mitch Haniger's tying, two-run shot in the top of the inning.

Anthony Misiewicz (4-4) induced an inning-ending double play in the eighth and Paul Sewald finished for his seventh save.

Yan Gomes had a homer and two RBIs for the Athletics.

Red sox 8, Rangers 4, 11 innings

In Boston, Travis Shaw hit a game-ending grand slam in the 11th inning, and Boston beat Texas.

Shaw, who entered as a defensive replacement in the eighth, drove a 3-2 pitch off Dennis Santana (2-3) over Boston's bullpen. It was Shaw's first hit since he was claimed off waivers from Milwaukee on Aug. 15. He also began his big league career with the Red Sox in 2015.

Alex Verdugo and Hunter Renfroe also homered for Boston in the make-up of Sunday's scheduled game, which was postponed due to the approach of Hurricane Henri. Garrett Whitlock (5-2) worked 2 2/3 innings for the victory.

The Rangers have the majors' fewest wins since the All-Star break at 8-26. Andy Ibáñez hit a tying two-run double in the ninth against Matt Barnes.

Pirates 6, Diamondbacks 5

In Pittsburgh, Yoshi Tsutsugo homered and Bryan Reynolds tripled in the seventh to help Pittsburgh beat Arizona for its third win in four games.

With the game tied in the eighth, Noé Ramirez (0-1) walked three straight to load the bases before Ke'Bryan Hayes sent a dribbler to short, scoring Kevin Newman.

Tsutsugo started Pittsburgh's seventh-inning rally with his second pinch-hit home run of the season, sending a solo shot into the front row above the right-field wall. Reynolds drove in Hayes with a triple, pulling Pittsburgh within one. Reynolds scored on an error from third baseman Asdrúbal Cabrera to tie it.

Pirates reliever Anthony Banda (2-0) struck out the side in the eighth. David Bednar retired the side in order in the ninth for his second major league save.

Daulton Varsho homered in a third straight game, and Christian Walker had a three-run double for Arizona.

Slumping Padres fire pitching coach Larry Rothschild

By DAVID BRANDT
AP SPORTS WRITER

The slumping San Diego Padres fired pitching coach Larry Rothschild on Monday as the franchise tries to stop its freefall in the National League playoff race.

The 67-year-old Rothschild has been with the Padres for the past two seasons. San Diego has lost nine of its past 11 games and has fallen to third place in the NL West, 13 games behind the first-place San Francisco Giants.

The Padres fell one game behind the Cincinnati Reds for the second and final NL Wild Card after losing on Sunday.

Padres manager Jayce Tingler said he's discussed the struggles of the pitching staff—particularly the starting rotation—for a few weeks with general manager A.J. Preller and other front office staff.

But Tingler was adamant that the move to fire Rothschild was "100%" his decision.

"Instead of waiting and seeing what's going to happen and staying stagnant, I thought the best thing to do for this team moving forward is to bring in a different voice, different message, different perspective right now," Tingler said.

Ben Fritz—the team's bullpen coach—will be the interim pitching coach for the rest of the season.

"He's done a great job with our bullpen," Tingler said. "He's one of the reasons our bullpen has performed very well this year. With his experience, knowing the system, knowing the guys, being able to provide his perspective, ultimately I think is going to give us our best chance to pitch to our capabilities down the stretch."

After a good start to the season, San Diego's pitching staff has regressed, especially in recent weeks. The group has a 4.82 ERA in August.

Three of the Padres' main starting pitchers—Yu Darvish, Chris Paddack and Dinelson Lamet—are currently on the injured list. So is Drew Pomeranz, one of the team's top relievers.

Tingler praised Rothschild, saying he was the right hire for a young pitching staff in 2020. Rothschild has had a long career as a pitching coach with teams like the Chicago Cubs and New York Yankees. He was also the manager of the Tampa Bay Rays from 1998 to 2001.

"We've certainly had some injuries, there's no doubt about that," Tingler said. "But we've had some inconsistency on the mound. I just think at the end of the day, we haven't reached our level of production consistently on the mound. With 36 games to go, we're trying to give a different message."

San Diego hopes improved pitching can complement one of the most powerful lineups in the big leagues, featuring Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and Jake Cronenworth.

The Padres start a three-game home series against the division rival Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday.

Newton to miss time after traveling to medical appointment

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Patriots quarterback Cam Newton will miss at least three days of practice this week after traveling to a team-approved, out of town medical appointment over the weekend, possibly opening the door for rookie Mac Jones to gain ground in their competition to be the Week 1 starter.

The team said in a statement Monday that Newton went to the appointment Saturday and tested negative each day for COVID-19.

But due to a “misunderstanding about tests conducted away from NFL facilities” that is required by NFL and NFL-PA protocols, he has been subjected to a five-day, re-entry cadence before he can return to the Patriots’ team facilities. The earliest he is eligible to return is Thursday.

The statement said Newton will continue participating in team activities virtually while he is being held out of practices. How it will affect his availability for the Patriots’ exhibition finale against the Giants on Sunday will be determined. The Giants will be in Foxborough for joint practices Wednesday and Thursday before hosting New England for the game.

According to the NFL’s COVID-19 protocols that were most recently updated on July 27, only unvaccinated players are subject to the five-day re-entry cadence that requires daily testing. Fully vaccinated players are required to test once every 14 days.

Asked earlier this month



New England Patriots’ Cam Newton directs his team during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles on Thursday, Aug. 19, 2021, in Philadelphia.

whether he has been vaccinated for COVID-19, Newton declined to answer.

“I think it’s too personal for each and every person to kind of discuss it, and I’ll just keep it at that,” he said.

Newton missed a game early last season after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Monday marked the first practice absence this preseason for Newton, who is in his second season in New England after being signed prior to last season following Tom Brady’s departure to Tampa Bay.

Newton struggled in lim-

ited action in the Patriots’ first preseason game, but shined in their second exhibition match-up at Philadelphia last week, passing for 103 yards and a touchdown in a 35-0 win. He is trying to keep his starting job this season after New England used its first-round pick on Jones.

In Newton’s absence, Jones received all the practice snaps with the projected first-team offense on Monday.

Patriots veteran safety Devin McCourty has been an advocate for vaccination and along with teammate Matt

Slater participated in a video promoting COVID-19 vaccine importance back in April.

But McCourty, who has acknowledged his own initial vaccine hesitancy, has also repeatedly said and reiterated Monday that the decision of whether to get vaccinated should be a personal one.

He said any effect those decisions have on the overall team must be taken in stride.

“At the end of the day, it is what it is. You have to abide by whatever it is that we’re being asked to do, or however you want to see the rules,

or whatever. We just go from there,” McCourty said.

“And I think that’s what each guy is going to do in the locker room. Take care of what they can control and however it kind of turns out for us will be what it is.”

GILMORE DAY TO DAY

Coach Bill Belichick said cornerback Stephon Gilmore remains day to day as he works his way back from a quadriceps injury that has kept him on the active/physically unable to perform list throughout training camp.

“I know that Steph’s been working extremely hard. See him in here all the time, and he’s doing other things while we’re practicing, so we don’t really see him on the practice field, but you know, he’s been doing everything he can do,” Belichick said.

“The things he hasn’t been able to do, he hasn’t been able to do. ... When he’s ready to be out there, then he’ll be out there.”

The regular-season status of the 2019 NFL Defensive Player of the Year remains uncertain as he looks to get additional compensation entering the final season of the five-year, \$65 million deal he signed in 2017. He is scheduled to make a base salary of \$7 million this season.

Despite not being able to practice, cornerbacks coach Mike Pellegrino said Gilmore has remained engaged with his teammates.

“It’s very easy for guys when they’re injured to kind of be quiet and take a backseat. He hasn’t done that,” Pellegrino said. “Been great. I love having Steph in the room. So he’s been top notch all the way through this.”

BACK IN ACTION

Tight end Jonnu Smith returned to practice Monday after sitting out the exhibition matchup with the Eagles.

Also returning to practice was long snapper Joe Cardona, who had been sidelined with an unspecified injury since Aug. 9, along with defensive tackle Lawrence Guy, defensive back Jonathan Jones and kicker Nick Folk.

Titans carry on with head coach in quarantine with COVID-19

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Titans coach Mike Vrabel anticipated further testing would confirm he has COVID-19.

He was right.

The Tennessee Titans practiced without their head coach Monday with Vrabel quarantined at home after testing positive Sunday morning.

Special teams coordinator Craig Aukerman helped run practice, while defensive coordinator Shane Bowen filled in by talking to reporters after the session.

Bowen was the first coach to test positive last September during the NFL’s first COVID-19 outbreak during the season, before a vaccine was available. Vrabel disclosed this spring that he had been vaccinated.

“Get your rest and take your meds,” Bowen said. “Hopefully, we get him back sooner than I got back last year.”

The Titans’ outbreak eventually involved 14 players and nine other personnel. Only

Vrabel and defensive lineman Anthony Rush, placed on the reserve/COVID-19 list before Monday’s practice, have been affected so far.

“Just like we tell the players, when somebody goes down, it’s next man up,” Bowen said. “Everybody’s just got to take on a little bit more. You lose a little bit obviously with his presence ... But we’ve got to be able to pick up the slack and get these guys going and be able to get things accomplished.”

Vrabel may not be able to return before Sept. 1 at the earliest. The Titans (2-0) wrap up the preseason Saturday night hosting Chicago (1-1) with the season opener Sept. 12 against Arizona.

The Titans made some other moves Monday, apparently having seen enough to pick their kicker with one preseason game remaining.

They waived as injured kicker Tucker McCann, leaving Sam Ficken as the lone



Tennessee Titans head coach Mike Vrabel reacts during the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Saturday, Aug. 21, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

kicker on the roster after a strong week in practices and in Tennessee’s 34-3 win over Tampa Bay. Ficken made field goals from 48 and 58 yards and had five touchbacks on kickoffs against the Bucs.

Vrabel said Sunday that Ficken hadn’t done anything to hurt himself.

“I think his leg has gotten even stronger since he’s got here,” Vrabel said. “And I asked (assistant coach) James

(Wilhoit), ‘Is it stronger or is he just hitting it with more confidence?’ And James thinks that he’s just swinging with more confidence because it clearly looks like a stronger leg to me.”

The Titans always could bring in another kicker to challenge Ficken. But the roster must be trimmed to 80 by Tuesday afternoon with the final roster due to be cut to 53 on Aug. 31.

The Titans claimed Ficken off waivers from the New York Jets on Aug. 1 and waived undrafted free agent Blake Haubeil. McCann had been kicking well until he was hurt at the end of a field goal in the preseason-opening win at Atlanta. A rusher rolled McCann’s right, kicking ankle. McCann hadn’t practiced since then.

McCann, signed by the Titans as an undrafted free agent out of Missouri after the draft in 2020, has yet to kick in an NFL game.

Ficken 28, has made 35 of 48 attempts overall (73 %) and 12 of 22 (55%) from 40 yards or more in four seasons. He was 13 of 15 for the Jets last season, with both misses coming from 50 yards or more. Ficken has struggled on extra points, making 49 of 56 for his career and 12 of 15 for the Jets last season.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	77	48	.616	—
New York	73	52	.584	4
Boston	71	55	.563	6½
Toronto	65	58	.528	11
Baltimore	38	85	.309	38

Central Division

Chicago	72	54	.571	—
Cleveland	61	61	.500	9
Detroit	60	66	.476	12
Kansas City	56	68	.452	15
Minnesota	54	70	.435	17

West Division

Houston	73	52	.584	—
Oakland	70	56	.556	3½
Seattle	68	58	.540	5½
Los Angeles	62	64	.492	11½
Texas	43	81	.347	29½

NATIONAL LEAGUE**East Division**

Atlanta	68	57	.544	—
Philadelphia	63	61	.508	4½
New York	61	63	.492	6½
Washington	53	70	.431	14
Miami	51	74	.408	17

Central Division

Milwaukee	76	49	.608	—
Cincinnati	69	57	.548	7½
St. Louis	63	60	.512	12
Chicago	55	72	.433	22
Pittsburgh	45	80	.360	31

West Division

San Francisco	80	44	.645	—
Los Angeles	78	47	.624	2½
San Diego	68	58	.540	13
Colorado	57	68	.456	23½
Arizona	42	84	.333	39

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATALIG

From Page 20

the blue tees and ladies from the white. They now know what to expect so the scores will improve. Four more to go!" he said.

The CNMI attorney general, who himself has a mean golf swing, wants more golfers to show up in the next series of tryouts for the Mini Games, which the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever.

"I'm encouraging more players to try out. Persons wishing to caddy for a player are welcome. Thanks to the players for joining and COP for a fabulous golf course," he said.

CFoGA is looking at forming a national team made up of two men's players, two junior men's players, two women's players, and two junior women's players.

Pacific Games Council eligibility rules dictate that only U.S. citizens who are CNMI residents can try out for the national team. Another eligibility requirement CFoGA included is anyone trying out should also be a member of any CFoGA-sanctioned club. The rest of the four tryouts are set on Sept. 5, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, and Oct. 16.

Aside from Manibusan, CFoGA's officers include vice president J.J. Atalig, secretary/treasurer Lorraine Babauta, social and media officer Geri Dela Cruz, and golf tournament coordinators Marco Peter and Joey Dela Cruz. Peter incidentally is also the chairman of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee.

For more information on the CFoGA tryouts for the Mini Games, call Dela Cruz at 783-4287 and Atalig at 285-1612.

Join 4-Mile Fun Run, support NMI basketball teams



The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation is gearing up for the 2022 Micronesian Games and will have its first fundraising event this Saturday via the Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste and Pokka 4-Mile Sunset Run.

Registration is still on for the Aug. 28 event and the NMIBF is requesting support from the community to help the federation send the NMI men's and women's teams to the Micro Games that the Marshall Islands will be hosting. The NMIBF has recently selected 20 players each in the men's and women's divisions that will move to Stage 2 of the Micro Games preparations and this weekend's run will just be one of the several fundraising events that the national squad hopefuls will be involved with.

"It's truly encouraging to



The event's shirts and bibs for the Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste and Pokka 4-Mile Sunset Run are out and ready for this Saturday's fundraiser organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

have the community's support as we prepare and battle for the honor to represent the CNMI to the Micronesian Games," said Marlene Lumabi, who is

among the players that made the grade in the first stage of the NMI National Team Program.

This Saturday's event will have two categories. The Michelob Ultra 4-Mile Run For Taste

is for 21 and over participants and registration can be made through <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50057/michelob>

ultra-4-mile-run-for-taste. For the Pokka 4-Mile Sunset Run, runners/walkers can sign in at <https://raceroster.com/events/2021/50180/pokka-4-mile-sunset-run>. Registration fee is \$25 (deadline is on Aug. 27) and will include an event shirt (for the first 65 in the 21 and over race and 35 in the Under 21), race bib, digital finisher certificate, and drink. Prizes packages will be awarded to the Top 3 men's and women's finishers in each division.

Both races will start at 5pm at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround point across the Ladera Building along Beach Road. For more information, contact NMIBF at nmibasketballfederation@gmail.com.

This weekend's fundraiser is supported by Michelob Ultra, Pokka, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas Athletics, and Latte Built. **(PR)**

TEAM

From Page 20

"Of course, I'm proud of my son Lucas. They're very serious in their training. I'm also encouraging my son to do more training and in the future do the whole triathlon solo," he said.

Team Sus Imposters settled for runner-up honors after Alonzo Acosta (swim), Amara Acosta (bike), and Jack Raho (run) timed in at 12:25.

The Acostas' mother, Renee, said Team Sus Imposters fully embodied sportsmanship during last Saturday's race.

"They did more than just have fun and placed second, they had heart. After they finished their leg, they went back into the course, running and

cheering alongside the other children who were struggling to finish. These were kids the team did not know... strangers... and that's truly what these competitions are about. More important than the medals around their necks, they learned and experienced what it truly means to be a true sportsman with heart, grit, and determination," she said.

Renee said she's very appreciative of TRAC for bringing back Taga Kids and showing children the importance not only of competition but genuine sportsmanship as well.

"My son, Alonzo, told me that day... 'Mom, I've never felt more alive.' And I told him, 'You feel that way because more than your medals, you did not leave any child behind today. You went back and

ran alongside them. Cheering them on, equals, regardless of the race results, she said."

Team 1st Tri of B.J. Chisato and Sheinaya Mae Acuvera came in third in the children's triathlon sponsored by Bridge Capital LLC and Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center.

"I'm very proud of them! A lot of people say Sheina May is overweight for her age and all that but it doesn't stop her from doing things she loves. I can't wait for the next competition my kids can join and this is amazing! It definitely helps with their health and boosts their confidence. I want her to keep doing things she loves despite what other people says and she's in it to win it," said Rose Chisato.

TRAC president Manny

Sitchon he's ecstatic that they were able to finally organize the Taga Kids triathlon.

"The Taga Kids was very fun and enjoyable. It's a bit chaotic though but in a nice way because of the parents who were all over the course. All the kids seemed to have enjoyed themselves especially those who came home with medals," he said.

On the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 tryouts earlier in the day, Sitchon said because of the absence of some triathletes they will be holding a couple of more tryouts before deciding on who will make up the CNMI National Triathlon Team.

"It was a nice turnout, but we have some registered participants who were not able

to come and some were off-island. Those who weren't able to make it will be joining us in the next series of tryouts. There's still no set date set and we want to encourage those who want to become part of the national team to take part in the tryouts," he said.

As per the Pacific Games Council manual, TRAC earlier said that to be eligible for the Mini Games an athlete must be a U.S. passport-holder and must have resided in the CNMI for five years.

The 2022 Mini Games will be held in the CNMI from June 17 to 25. Triathlon, one of nine sports that will be offered in the Mini Games, will have 53 participants and will be held in the southernmost island of the CNMI on Rota.

BLUE

From Page 20

Estores, and Bry Natividad each connecting from downtown and center Jeo Daneel getting all the important rebounds, Pacific Dental was able to open up a 29-18 lead before the halftime break.

Blue Haus' halftime huddle was serious as they tried to map out a way to stop Pacific Dental dead in their tracks. That's when they hatched their pressure defense against the unsuspecting young crew of their opponents that led to either turnovers or forced low percentage shots.

With their improved defense, Blue Haus was now able to run out for easy fastbreak points and little by little the team got back into the game. It eventually grabbed its first lead when swingman Errol Peredo's acrobatic layup made it 36-35 with 10:41 left in the game.

The defensive clamps will

only become tighter after that as Pacific Dental only managed to score 3 more points, while allowing Blue Haus to frolic on offense that led to the latter's runaway victory.

Ryan Byna and center Darwin Barbo led Blue Haus with 12 points apiece, while Peredo added 11 more. Daneel paced Pacific Medical in the loss with 11, while Torres chipped in 7 markers. It was the second straight win for Blue Haus, while Pacific Medical absorbed its first loss.

In the first game, Christian Itaas fired 17 points to lead Sixers to its second straight win following a 60-46 victory over OG Rollers. After a 31-31 tie at halftime, Itaas combined with Don Brennan to bring down the OG Rollers. Frankie Satur and Eman Fera led the now 1-1 OG Rollers in scoring with 9 and 8 points, respectively.

In the third game, The Game notched its second win in as many contests after slamming

Ol'Aces 67-59. Erik Joe and Jeff Sagum showed the way for The Game with 28 and 18 points, respectively. High-flyer Coby Santos fired a tourney high 30 points for debuting Ol'Aces, which also got 18 markers from Preston Basa.

Socho registered its first win of the competition following a 53-27 shellacking of Lakay in the fourth game. The team totally flipped the script after a first half that saw them trailing by a point, 13-14. Mustafa Augustino was the high-point man for Socho with 12 points, while veteran Mel Capalad paced Lakay (0-2) in the loss with 8 points.

In the final game of the evening, Jacob's Bakeshop also won its first game following a 52-49 upset of Rollers (0-1). Like the previous game, the eventual winning team trailed in the first half before playing better in the second to notch the victory. The 17 points of Kitz Santos led the team to

victory, while Matt Richardson's game-high 18 points led Rollers.

First Game

Sixers 60 — Itaas 17, Brennan 11, Andrew 8, De Guzman 8, Fidelino 6, Aranda 6, Lajara 2, Flores 2.

OG Rollers 46 — Satur 9, Fera 8, Danas 7, Garcia 6, Naraja 5, Ilo 5, Aldan 4, Factor 3.

Scoring by quarters: 31-31, 60-46.

Second Game

Blue Haus 47 — Byna 12, Barbo 12, Peredo 11, De Dios 4, Devero 4, Tatlonghari 3, Esdrelon 1.

Marianas Dental 37 — Daneel 11, Torres 7, Darag 6, Gant 5, Estores 3, Natividad 3, Ferrer 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-29, 47-38.

Third Game

The Game 67 — Joe 28, Sagum 18, Blake 8, Sablan 5,

Deleon Guerrero 4, Dayao 3.

Ol'Aces 59 — Santos 30, Basa 14, Libuw 6, Kabiriel 2, Atan 2, Diaz 2, Schmidt 1.

Scoring by halves: 31-26, 67-59.

Fourth Game

Socho 53 — Augustino 12, Aguon 7, Malwelbug 7, Q. Faisao 7, Sharry 5, Iguel 3, Irog 2, D. Faisao 2, Nekaifes 2.

Lakay 27 — Capalad 8, Mackenzie 6, Isip 6, Doda 3, Mendoza 2, Lumauag 2, Narciso 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-14, 47-29.

Fifth Game

Jacob's Bakeshop 52 — Santos 17, Kintz 11, Isaac 9, Ong 6, Moises 3, Cole 3, Gaviola 2, Camacho 1.

Rollers 49 — Richardson 18, Dela Cruz 11, Villarin 7, Cruz 3, Deleon Guerrero 3, Sumor 3, Dalmes 2, King 2.

Scoring by halves: 20-26, 52-49.



Join 4-Mile Fun Run, support NMI basketball teams

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Stanton, Yankees win 10th straight, cool off Braves, 5-1

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

Atalig tops Mini Games golf tryout

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

J.J. Atalig got ahead in the race for slots in the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games after topping last Saturday's tryouts at the Coral Ocean Resort.

The many-time CNMI national player shot a 5-over par 77 to top the leaderboard in the 27-man strong qualifier in the men's division. Atalig started out strong, firing a 1-under 35 in the first nine holes with birdies in holes No. 7 and 9. He slowed down a bit in the back nine though, shooting a 6-over 42.

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho finished a stroke behind his fellow former national player at 6-over par 78. The 60-year-old par-buster shot a 4-over par 40 in the front nine before redeeming himself a bit with a 2-over



par 38 in the back. He shot birdies in holes No. 9 and 18.

Third place last Saturday was a tie between Peter "Dung" Tenorio and Chris Groves who both came away with an identical score of 8-over par 80. Tenorio scored a 42-38, while Groves had even 40s.

In the women's side, Niri-mai Koebel topped the tryout with a 95 built around a 45 in the front and a 50 in the back. Second place went to Janet Torres (100, 49-51), while third place was Rose Rohrer (107, 53-54).

In the men's junior division,

Li Zhi Yun ruled the roost with a 13-over par 85, including a birdie in hole No. 1. He shot a 39 in the front and a 45 in the back. Joshua Atalig came in second with a 15-over par 87 (43-44), while third place was Joey "Kazu" Dela Cruz with his 106 (53-53).

Jin Zhimin notched the No. 1 spot in the women's junior division after she totaled a 15-over par 87 built around a 46 in the first nine holes and a 41 in the last nine. Soarin Oh (118, 61-57) and Haram Lee (121, 57-64) came in second and third, respectively.

Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations president Edward Manibusan was happy with the turnout in the first tryout for the CNMI National Golf Team for next year's Mini Games.

"I'm impressed with the number who showed up. Golfers were out of their comfort zone as the men played from

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J.J. Atalig, seen here in this file photo from the most recent Tournament of Champions, topped the national golf team tryouts for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Team A&L wins Taga Kids relay

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



From left, Team 1st Tri, Team A&L, and Team Sus Imposters pose on top of the medal podium after the relay race of last Saturday's Taga Kids triathlon at the Paupau Beach complex.

MARK RABAGO

TRAC Team A&L won the relay portion of the Taga Kids Triathlon organized by the Triathlon Association of the CNMI early Saturday morning at the Paupau Beach complex.

The team was just a two-person outfit with Arielle Mae Matutino tackling the 50m swim in the waters off Paupau Beach and Chris Lucas Esdrelon taking on the challenge of the 2-loop bike and the 2-loop run around the complex. They managed to complete the course in 12:14 to beat out Team Sus Imposters and Team 1st Tri.

Esdrelon's father, Elmer, was happy that his son's team was victorious in the Taga Kids relay.

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Blue Haus forward Errol Peredo faces a Pacific Dental double-team during their NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament game last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus goes defensive against Pacific Dental

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Even before the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament started, the vet-

eran-laden crew of Blue Haus was already defensive about the ages of their key players.

So, it was kind of poetic that it took a tough defensive stance in the second half that allowed them to overcome an 11-point halftime deficit to cruise past Pacific Dental, 47-37, in the second of the

scheduled five-game set last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Pacific Dental gave Blue Haus all it could handle in the first half, as their shooters were getting wide-open shots from the land of plenty. With Joseph Torres, Michael

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